

This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

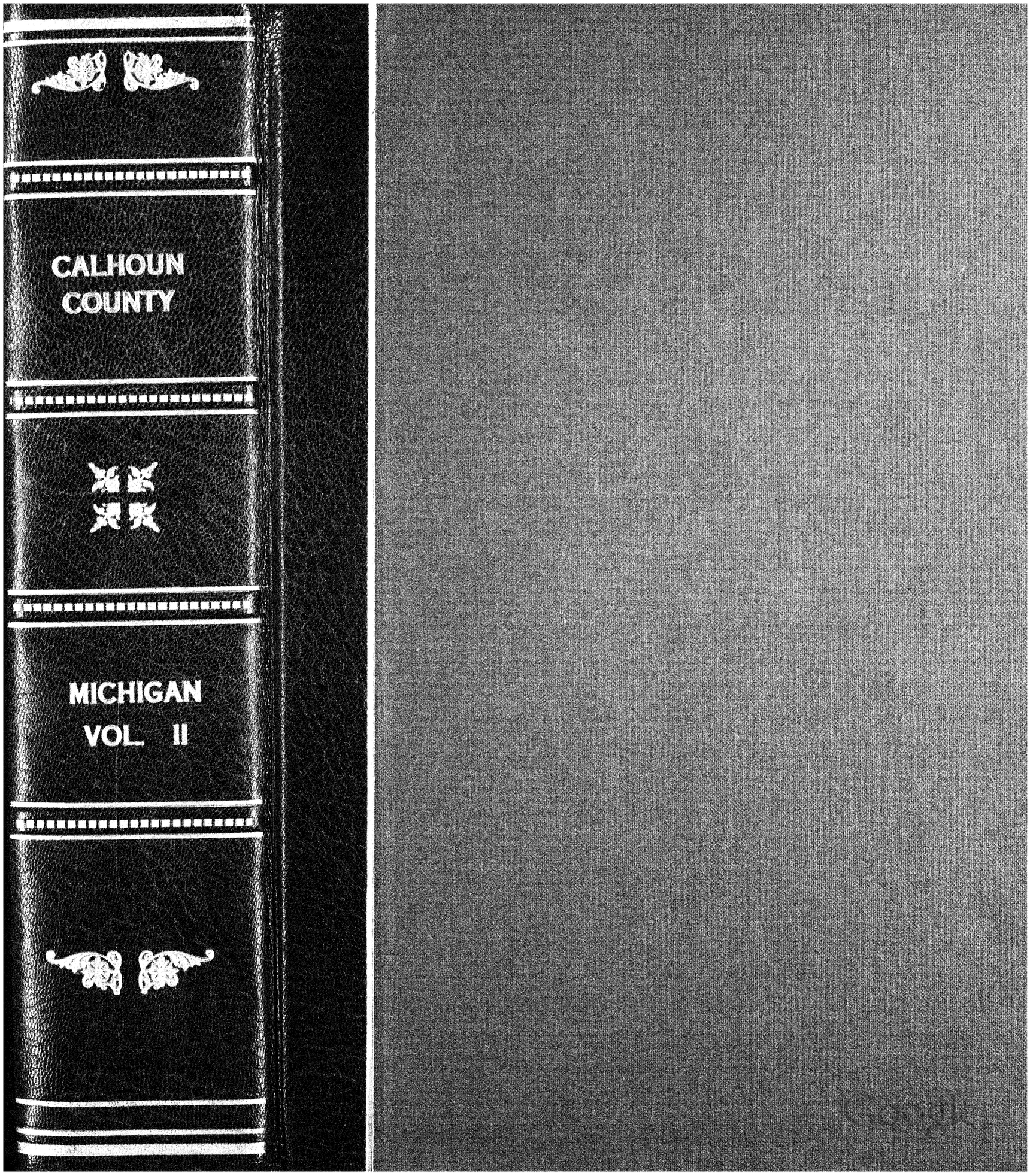
+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`


CALHOUN
COUNTY
MICHIGAN
VOL. II

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

HISTORY OF

CALHOUN COUNTY
MICHIGAN

A Narrative Account of its Historical Progress,
its People, and its Principal Interests

BY
HON. WASHINGTON GARDNER

VOLUME II

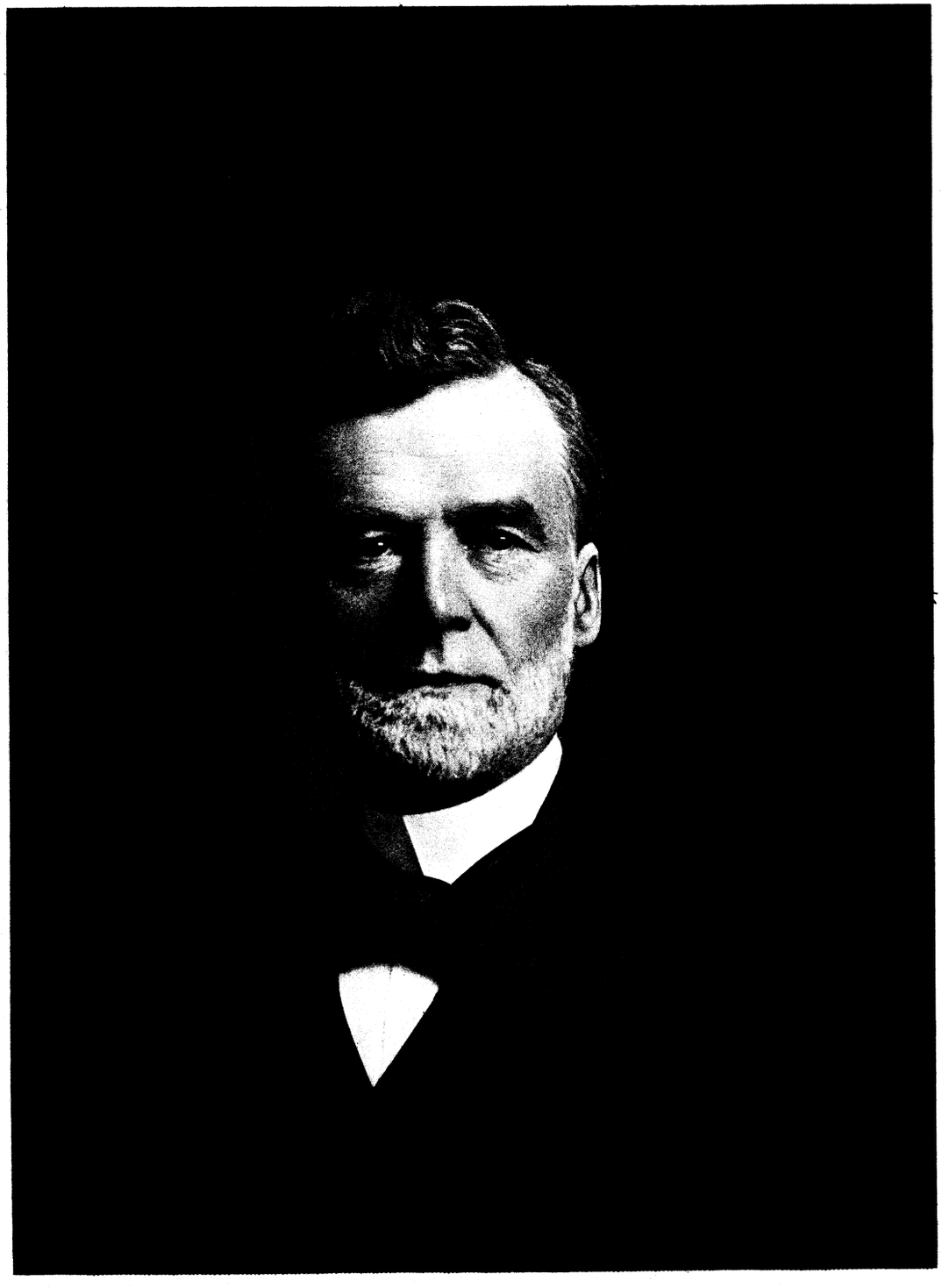
ILLUSTRATED

PUBLISHERS
THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY
CHICAGO AND NEW YORK
1913

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



Charles Austin

Hosted by Google

History of Calhoun County

HON. CHARLES AUSTIN. Battle Creek as a city of trade and industry has been fortunate in the possession of a fine body of citizenship, including men of ability and integrity to direct the large enterprises which have given this city distinction among the larger centers of Michigan. During the last forty years one of these business builders and upholders of local prosperity has been Mr. Charles Austin, merchant, banker and legislator. Mr. Austin has had a long and varied career, which has made him both a witness and participant of many eras of achievement which preceded the present.

A native of England, born in the city of London, April 19, 1834, he began his active business life when a boy, and his success came as the result of his own energies and force of initiative. His father was in early life a farmer, then became a boot and shoe merchant in London, was at the same time an active minister of the Wesleyan denomination, and later emigrated to New Zealand, where he combined his labors for the church with the practice of farming up to the time of his death, which occurred when he was nearly eighty-eight years of age.

The son Charles received his schooling in one of the institutions of the British and Foreign Schools Society, and his mercantile experience was begun in his father's store. To a youth with his share of ambition and energy, America presented a very inviting field. He was eighteen when he left London, and in February, 1852, landed at New York. The metropolis did not at once offer him the kind of work he desired, so he went up the river to Albany, where he was soon clerking in a boot and shoe store. In the fall of the same year he went on to Little Falls, New York, and from there to Utica, which was his home until 1854. The latter year was the date of his coming to Michigan, with which state he has been identified for nearly sixty years. Concord was his first place of residence, but in September, 1855, he located in Calhoun county. He is one of the oldest citizens of this county, and during the many years of his residence has seen this locality change from pioneer conditions to the highest degree of modern development.

His first two years in this county were spent in Homer, where he was in the boot and shoe business. On his removal to Bedford he extended his trade to include a stock of general merchandise. He was identified with the little town of Bedford for many years, built up a large business by satisfactory dealing and honorable methods, and left there to undertake a larger scope of enterprise in Battle Creek, where he located in 1872. The dry-goods house which was his first establishment was one of the largest in the city during its time. He also founded the large mercantile and commission house of Austin, Godsmark & Durand, now the Godsmark, Durand & Company, in which

Hosted by Google

he still retains an interest. The prosperity and long continued success of the Old National Bank, a financial institution which is frequently mentioned in this history, have been in large measure due to Mr. Austin, who has been a stockholder many years and is vice president.

Mr. Austin was married at Concord, Michigan, January 1, 1855, to Miss Lucy D. Taylor. They were the parents of five sons, two dying in infancy. Those still living are: Oliver T., traveling salesman, Chicago, single; Charles J., married, no children, manager wholesale grocery, Toledo, O.; Edward D., engaged in the art crockery business, Battle Creek, married, three children, Helen G., Oliver C., Darwin E.

In the affairs of citizenship and public activity, Mr. Austin has always borne a scrupulous and worthy part. During his Bedford residence he was a justice of the peace, and in 1875, after his removal to Battle Creek, he was elected a member of the city council. The following year he was the choice of the Republican citizenship for the office of mayor, and was re-elected. In 1880 came his first election to the lower house of the legislature, and in 1882 and 1884 he was chosen to the state senate. As member of the senate committees on finance, insurance, education and asylums for the insane and chairman of the committee on railroads, he had a prominent part in the legislative functions of that period. His membership in the Masonic order dates from 1858, and he has attained high rank in the craft being a member of Blue Lodge, No. 12, Chapter, Royal Arch, Council and the Commandery. His home church is the Independent Congregational in which he is an active member and a worker in its Sunday school.

FREEBORN W. BATHRICK, M. D. In the death of Dr. Freeborn W. Bathrick, there slipped from the ranks of the world's useful men, one return the affection and esteem of a whole city. No one has as good a right as a doctor to become a cynic and a pessimist, for he must view humanity at its worst angle. Yet Doctor Bathrick, in spite of his long years spent in fighting death and disease, believed in the good of humanity, and in spite of sad and bitter things which he was forced to witness, he kept the sweetness and sincerity of his nature that caused him to be so well beloved. As a physician, his skill was undoubted, as his large practice would testify. Possessed of boundless energy, broad sympathies and the requisite skill, it is no wonder that he was mourned as few have been mourned in the city of Battle Creek.

Freeborn W. Bathrick was born on the 18th of August, 1834, at Medina in the state of New York, the son of Stephen and Cynthia M. (Bartholomew) Bathrick. The parents of Dr. Bathrick were of English descent, and were both born in the Empire state. During the early days of his life, the father was a minister of the Baptist church, later leaving the ministry to take up medicine. As is the fate of preachers, at least as it was in these times, Stephen Bathrick was transferred from place to place, going from New York to Ohio when Freeborn Bathrick was seven years old, and returning to New York after a few years. He then continued his ministerial work in Maine, Michigan, and Illinois, until he was incapacitated by reason of advancing years and ill-health. He died in 1880, at Frankfort, Illinois, after a long period of invalidism. Stephen Bathrick and his wife were the parents of five children, two of whom died in childhood. The eldest of these was Ada, who became Mrs. David S. Stephens, of Frankfort, Illinois, and the two sons were Franklin Servetus and Dr. Freeborn W.

When Freeborn W. Bathrick was fourteen years of age he left home and began teaching music in and around Rochester. Up to this time he had been a school boy learning his lessons daily, now he had become

Hosted by Google

a wage earner at the age of fourteen. Such sturdy self reliance and resolve not to let the burden of his support rest on his father any longer than was necessary is but a foreshadowing of the trend of his whole unselfish life. He taught both the piano and melodeon and was one of the youngest music teachers in his day. He carried on this work for ten years or more, going to Maine during this time, but returning to pursue his work in his native state. He also taught in Toronto, Canada, and acted as agent for George A. Prince and Company's melodeons. While in this city he took up the study of medicine under Doctor Hackett, and a year and a half later he returned to New York and continued his medical studies with his father. He then went west and entered Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago, Illinois, having prior to this however, taken one course of lectures in Bowdoin College, at Brunswick, Maine. Before he had finished his course in medicine, he came to Battle Creek, opened up an office and began to work up a practice. He was very successful in this attempt and returned to Chicago after a time to complete his course and to receive his degree which he took in 1867. He first came to Battle Creek in 1861, and he practiced there up till the time of his death. He was never associated with any other physician but he was a very close friend of the late Dr. Cox, who is mentioned at length elsewhere in this volume. For a number of years he made a specialty of throat and lung troubles and won considerable reputation as a specialist along these lines.

In addition to being a fine physician, he was a capable business man and was interested in every movement that had the advancement of Battle Creek as the foundation of its existence. He was interested at one time in a short line railroad which was afterwards absorbed by the Grand Trunk Railroad Company. In the fraternal world Dr. Bathrick gave his allegiance to the Masonic order, being a member of the blue lodge and of the commandery. Politically he was a Republican, but he never cared to hold office, and was too absorbed by the heavy work of his profession to take an active part in the great game.

Dr. Bathrick was married in March, 1861, to Miss Georgia L. Rowley, who was born in Rochester, New York, in 1840 and died in Battle Creek in 1892. The death of Dr. Bathrick occurred on the 20th of September, 1897, at his residence in Battle Creek, when he had reached the age of sixty-three. The Hon. W. F. Neale, a life long friend of the deceased, delivered the funeral address, after which the remains were taken to Detroit for cremation, in accordance with the expressed wishes of the doctor. Dr. Bathrick possessed a wide circle of friends in his home community and the funeral, which was held at the Independent Congregational church, was largely attended. The religious services were conducted by the Reverend S. J. Stewart, assisted by the Reverend W. S. Potter, and the tribute which the Honorable W. F. Neale paid to the memory of his well loved friend was both eloquent and appropriate. Such was the quiet unostentatious life of a man who found his chief pleasure in serving others.

Four children were born to Doctor and Mrs. Bathrick: George H., Charles F., Evelyn M. and John. After completing the curriculum of the public schools of Battle Creek, George H. Bathrick, learned the trade of wood-working and since 1883 he has been connected with the firm of Nichols and Shepard Company, of Battle Creek. This company is one of the largest threshing machine manufacturers in the world and is known the world over for the fine products in the shape of threshers and engines that are poured forth from their doors daily. George Bathrick represented this concern in Des Moines, Iowa, for twenty-one years, as manager of the branch house there, and returned to

Hosted by Google

Battle Creek in 1907, since which time he has been sales manager for the company. For twenty-nine years Mr. Bathrick has worked for the Nichols and Shepard Company, and since 1887 he has been a stockholder in the concern. In a fraternal way he is affiliated with the Athelstan Club. At Columbus, Wisconsin, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Bathrick to Mrs. Ella Cruttenden, in April, 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Bathrick have no children and their home is at No. 293 Garfield avenue.

Charles F. Bathrick, the second son was born and reared in Battle Creek, receiving his education in the Battle Creek schools. He is the active and progressive purchasing agent of the Nichols and Shepard Company. He was married in 1899 to Miss Grace Upton, daughter of the late James S. Upton, who represented one of the old families of Battle Creek, and concerning whom a sketch will be found elsewhere in this volume. They have three children, Viola Georgiana, Donald Upton and Frances Grace, all of whom are in the public schools of the city.

Evelyn McAllister Bathrick was born and educated in Battle Creek, and married William J. Marvin, of Lansing, Michigan, where they now reside. Mr. Marvin is in the printing business and he and his wife are the parents of one daughter, Doris Jeane Marvin, who was educated in the public schools of Lansing, and in the Conservatory of Music, at Ypsilanti, Michigan.

The youngest son, John Moulton Bathrick, was like the others, born and reared and educated in Battle Creek. He is now in Fargo, North Dakota, where he is the manager of a branch house for Nichols and Shepard Company.

J. R. Goff. One of the most prosperous and highly esteemed farmers of Calhoun county, whose name is well-known throughout Emmett township, is J. R. Goff, the owner of one of the finest farms in Calhoun county. His father, Stillman Goff, who was a native of New York state and whose parents had died while he was yet a child, came to Calhoun county to live with a sister, at the age of fourteen years. Stillman Goff remained a resident of this county until the beginning of the Civil war. He enlisted and served in Company D of the First Michigan Sharpshooters. He participated in many battles, including the Battle of the Wilderness and was in Libby and Anderson prisons for nine months. At the conclusion of the war, he returned to Lapeer county. While engaged in army service, he had been united in marriage to Esther Haskell, who was a daughter of David Haskell and who had four brothers in the war. Six weeks after the birth of our subject, Stillman Goff removed with his family to Tuscola county, where his other three children were born and reared and which was his home for forty years. When he retired from agricultural activities he went to make his home in Columbiaville, Lapeer county, where in 1908 he died. Mrs. Goff, the mother of J. R. Goff, is still living. The other members of the family of his generation are two sisters and one brother: Bessie, who is Mrs. John Wiley of Genesee county; David A., a farmer of Tuscola county; and Cora Luceine, who is the wife of George Abbot, an automobile employe of Flint, Michigan.

J. R. Goff, who was born February 18, 1866, remained with his parents in Tuscola county until he was twenty-one years of age. His district school education was supplemented by a course in the high school of Millington, Michigan. Having attained his majority, he came to Calhoun county where he engaged in work on various farms and where his own life-purposes were formed.

Hosted by Google

In 1888 he married Miss Emma E. Rocho, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Vick) Rocho, both of whom were born in Germany, where they were married and from where they emigrated to America in 1865. Mr. Rocho, who located in Newton township, was one of its most prominent farmers. Mrs. Rocho died at their country home in 1895 and her husband followed her in 1910. Their daughter, Mrs. Goff, was the fourth child of the family of seven children.

Four years after his marriage J. R. Golf purchased in Newton township a farm of fifty acres, which he lived on for fourteen years. Here he made important improvements, profiting to a gratifying degree by the productiveness of his land. Here too were born his two children, Rellow, who is still at home, and Zola May, who is a successful schoolteacher.

In 1904 Mr. Goff sold the farm on which he had been living and bought another of two hundred acres, on which he continued to live until May 20, 1912, when he moved to Battle Creek. For some time he conducted it as a dairy farm, and then engaged in the cattle feeding business. He is one of our most progressive farmers, being an active member of the Farmers' club of Emmett township. He has held the office of justice of the peace and that of health officer. In politics he is a Republican. He is not a member of any church, but is a believer in churches. Mrs. Goff is a member of the Congregational church. The Goff farm, on which its owner has made $4,000 worth of improvements is a most attractive home.

CHARLES EMMETT BARNES. The late Charles Emmett Barnes was born at South Byron, Genesee county, New York, on the 19th day of June, 1848, and died in Battle Creek, Michigan, on the 17th day of October, 1911, when he was in the sixty-fourth year of his life. The following article is culled from a memorial dedicated to his memory after his death, and so complete is it in its detail and so faithful in its portrayal of the man as he was, that nothing is eliminated or added to it:

Charles Emmett Barnes was the fifth son of Hamilton Douglas and Elanor (Wilsey) Barnes. When eight years of age he came with his parents to Battle Creek, Michigan. When seventeen years of age he entered the office of the *Weekly Journal* for the purpose of learning the printing trade. He was connected with this paper for six years, when he spent a year in the west, and returned to his former position, that of foreman of the news room. Soon after this the *Daily Journal* was started and he became its city editor, and increased his newspaper work by corresponding for Detroit and Chicago papers.

In 1877 he started the *Daily News,* but discontinuing it, in the same year in company with George W. Buckley, he bought the *Michigan Tribune* from its owners, Woolnough & Bordine. Three years later he disposed of his interest to his partner and purchased the Reed City *Clarion.* After four years of successful newspaper work in northern Michigan, he returned to Battle Creek. With Eugene Glass as a partner, he established the *Sunday Morning Call.* In 1886 this paper was sold to a stock company made up of members of the Knights of Labor. A daily, weekly and Sunday edition was published, with Mr. Barnes as president and editor. In 1887 he was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Labor for the State of Michigan, and resigning his newspaper position, he went to Lansing, where he lived for four years. Returning to Battle Creek, he began the publication of the *Morning Patriot,* selling it in one year's time. Then for nine years he was connected with the *Daily Moon* and for one year with the *Journal.*

Hosted by Google

In the last five years of his life his writings consisted of feature stories for local and metropolitan papers and magazine articles along Nature lines. Birds and Nature, The Outing, Sports Afield, The Outer's Book, Field and Stream, St. Nicholas, Scientific News, The Scientific American, Technical World, The Michigan Farmer, Michigan Tradesman and Good Health were among those publications that contained an occasional article from his pen.

Mr. Barnes was a student of social questions, and at one time served two years as State Master Workman of the Knights of Labor. Fraternities and clubs always appealed to him, and during his life he was at various times actively identified with the Odd Fellows, Patriarchs' Encampment, Daughters of Rebekah, Improved Order of Red Men and the National Union. He was a Past Noble Grand of the Odd Fellows and was initiated into that order February 2, 1870. He was also a member of the old Volunteer Fire Department of Battle Creek and for many years was one of its most valiant workers. He was a charter member of the Waupakisco Club, the Conversational Club and the Nature Club of the City, and had held offices at times in them all.

In early life his attention was turned to the study of antiquities, especially the Mound Builders, the Indians, geology, mineralogy and numismatics. He possessed a large collection of specimens along these latter lines. As he advanced in years his greatest happiness was found in nature study. The great desire of his heart was to awaken in others an appreciation of the beauties of the outdoor world, and with this end in view he worked for the organization and maintenance of the Nature Club. It became his keen delight, in company with genial friends from this club, to take long walks across open fields, along winding streams, beneath leafy bowers and through wooded tracts. A dinner cooked over an open fire or a luncheon spread by a natural stream of cold water was to him more inviting than the most delicious viands ever served at a conventional feast.

While not a believer in dogma, he was thoroughly convinced of a Divine plan of creation. His favorite quotation was Shakespeare's words: "Tongues in trees, books in running brooks, sermons in stones and good in everything." The delineation of a character which he put into a story that he wrote some years ago, faithfully described his own innate qualities of mind:

"He saw beauty in the flowers, the trees, the birds: symmetry in the snowflake and the crystal. He read history in the rocks. He saw lace-work superior to human skill in the dragon-fly's wing, as well as nature's carving in the walnut burl and agate. He recognized art in the setting sun; social and industrial cooperation in the life of the ants; engineering in the beaver's dam and mechanics in the construction of the bird's nest. Dewdrops were gems to him, while the humming of insects and the zephyrs playing among the trees was music to his ears."

JOHN HENRY REAGAN. Railroading attracts many young men when they start out in life and it has proven a rich field of opportunity to those who are willing to work hard, scorn hardships, face danger and prove fidelity to the systems that employ them, but rewards are not given by railroad corporations to those who have not thus proved up. Among the officials of almost every line will be found men of sterling character who would have succeeded in almost any vocation because of this, but who, through natural inclination and lifelong training, have become particularly competent trainmen, and very often have reached high official position, through their own efforts. In this connection may be cited John Henry Reagan, who is general roadmaster of the Grand

Hosted by Google

Trunk Railway System, having won promotion from the very bottom of the ladder, through the qualities which are, as above noted, necessary in a railroad career. John H. Reagan was born May 4, 1855, at Danville, Pennsylvania, a son of Patrick and Mary (Hayes) Reagan, who were born in Limerick, Ireland, and married there. In 1852 the father emigrated to the United States, the mother emigrating during the following year. Patrick Reagan worked as a track builder at Great Bend, New York, until the arrival of his wife in this country, following which they settled in Danville, Pennsylvania, and shortly thereafter they moved to Catawissa, in the same state, and maintained their residence there for ten years. Returning to Danville, they spent a short time in that city, and then went to Alton, Illinois, from which place they went to Chicago, there spending the rest of their lives. Patrick Reagan died in the metropolis of the Prairie State when he was eighty years of age, while his wife was one year younger at the time of her demise, and both are buried there. They were the parents of five sons and five daughters, of whom but two children are living: John Henry; and Mrs. Johanna Malone, a resident of Chicago. Mary, the oldest child, and the only one born in Ireland, died at sea while being brought to the United States.

John H. Reagan attended the public schools of Danville, and supplemented this education by three years of attendance at the noted Bloomsburg Academy, following which he added to his knowledge by pursuing his studies at night school for three winters while he was working during the daytime. He began his railroad career in the humble position of water-boy, carrying water to the section hands, and when he had grown old enough became a laborer. After a short time his ability and faithfulness became appreciated and he was promoted to foreman of the D. L. & W. Railroad, and he subsequently became an employe of the Catawissa & Williamsport Railroad, now a part of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad. Later he accepted a position as section foreman with the P. L. & W. Railroad, then spent six months as foreman of an "extra gang," and was then put in charge of a construction gang. In 1878, after having spent ten months in the last-named capacity, he entered the employ of the Wabash Railroad, being a section foreman between St. Louis, Missouri, and Kansas City, and one year later was promoted to foreman of an "extra gang" with the same road. The following year saw Mr. Reagan foreman of the yards at Moberly, Missouri, in which capacity he acted for about one year, when he became a fireman of the system at the same place. He only continued to follow this occupation for about nine months, however, being then sent to St. Louis, as yardmaster, and eight months later was made roadmaster of the Wabash, a position which he continued to hold for six years. He then became roadmaster of the Chicago & Alton, with headquarters at Springfield, Illinois, and four years later came to Battle Creek to become general roadmaster of the Chicago & Grand Trunk Railway (the Grand Trunk System), and now has charge of all the lines west of Canada, a territory covering something like 1,100 miles of track. He has continued in this capacity since July, 1897. Mr. Reagan has become well known throughout the state, and beyond its limits, as a railroad man. Having begun his career in a humble capacity, and worked his way up through the various positions, he has thoroughly familiarized himself with all the details of his chosen line of endeavor, and his promotion has been earned by hard work, thorough honesty, intelligent effort and efficient services. He has a broad knowledge of the principles governing railroad operation and all the rules and regulations pertaining to traffic, in addition to which he is also a man of broad general informa-

Hosted by Google

tion. The duties and responsibilities of the position which he has held have demanded his undivided attention, and he has neither the time nor the inclination to seek official preferment or public office of any kind. He has, however, taken the interest which all good citizens should feel in political movements, acting always with the Democratic party where political issues are involved, and being a firm believer in the wisdom of its principles and policies. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of Springfield, Illinois, and the Knights of Columbus, of Battle Creek. The religious influences which surrounded him in early life were those of the Catholic Church, and he is at present a well-known member of St. Philip's congregation. The comfortable family residence is situated at No. 11 Cliff street, in Battle Creek.

Mr. Reagan was married, February 21, 1882, in St. Louis, Missouri, to Miss Helen Connors, of that city, and seven children were born to this union. Two died in infancy, and Raymond, one of Battle Creek's popular youths, was killed by an automobile, July 14, 1911. Nellie is the wife of Frederick A. Whalen, secretary of the T. F. Whalen Grocery Company, of Battle Creek; John T. is connected with the Grand Trunk Railway, and resides with his parents; Irene L. also lives at home; and Frank I. is a resident of Detroit. The children were educated in Battle Creek and Springfield, Illinois, and the two daughters are graduates of St. Mary's Academy, of Monroe, Michigan.

GEORGE CROMWELL WALTER. On June 3, 1911, death removed one of the men who composed the group of Battle Creek manufacturers, and a citizen of prominence and fine ability. The late Mr. Walter was identified with this section of Michigan for over thirty years, and had resided in Battle Creek about ten years previous to his death.

George Cromwell Walter was a native of one of the noted manufacturing districts of Massachusetts, and was born at Southfield on the 26th of September, 1846. His parents were Oliver Cromwell and Emily (Heath) Walter. His father, who died at Southfield, March 15, 1876, was a manufacturer of leather goods and whips and had a long and prosperous career in that section of the old Bay state. The principal center of the leather goods manufacturing in Massachusetts is at Westfield, and his plant in Southfield was part of a large group of similar manufactures. Emily (Heath) Walter, the mother, spent the last years of her life with her son in Allegan, Michigan.

The late Mr. Walter was reared in Massachusetts and received his education in the Berkshire Institute at New Marlboro. He was trained in the business with which his father was identified, and for a number of years was engaged in that line in the east. In 1880 he came to Michigan, locating in Allegan, and for several years traveled as representative of the American Whip Company of Westfield, Massachusetts. Later, at Hastings, he organized the Michigan Whip Company, of which he was president, and continued as one of the manufacturers at that point until 1902, when he moved to Battle Creek. Here he first established the Halter & Leather Company on Kalamazoo street, but sold his interest in order to found the Walter Halter Manufacturing Company, with a plant near the Verona dam, and he was the active manager of this important industry until his death. He was an expert in his particular line of manufacture, and also possessed the faculty of originating and inventive genius, so that he introduced many special features into his business. Some time before his death he perfected and patented a leather automobile tire, which was tried out with considerable success at Detroit. An enterprising man of business, he was equally known for his fine integrity and public-spirited citizenship, and his death came

Hosted by Google

as a personal loss to his many friends and business associates. His final resting place is in the Oak Hill cemetery at Battle Creek. One sister survives him, Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, of Norfolk, Connecticut.

Of his own family he left his widow and two sons and a daughter. His first wife was Miss Harriet Baldwin, of Winston, Connecticut, who died before he came to Michigan. The two sons, Herbert and Charles, are children of the first marriage. On December 31, 1884, Miss Lizzie M. Ellinger, of Allegan, became his wife that date being her birthday as well as her wedding day. Mrs. Walter, who was born in New York City, was the daughter of John Joseph and Barbara (Reichel) Ellinger, who for many years were well known farmers and citizens of Allegan county, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Walter became the parents of one daughter, Lucile, who was born at Allegan, graduated from the Battle Creek high school with the class of 1906, and is a graduate of the Graham School of Shorthand of this city. Mrs. Walter has for a number of years been a member of the Woman's League and is active in church and social affairs. Her husband was throughout most of his life a member of the Congregational church. Mrs. Walter with her daughter resides at 853 Maple street, the home at which her husband died. She is owner of this residence and considerable other city property.

MICHAEL H. VERNON. For nearly thirty years the late Michael H. Vernon was an honored and successful member of the business and civic community of Battle Creek. Throughout most of this time he had been engaged in the real estate business, and at the time of his death was one of the very oldest dealers in this line in the city. He had been in ill health for some time, in fact for five years, but his death, which occurred at his home on Calhoun street, August 19, 1909, brought sincere grief to his many friends and family who had so long known him as an upright citizen and an affectionate husband and father.

Michael H. Vernon was born at Avon, New York, April 29, 1853, was reared and educated in the east, and after reaching manhood came to Michigan, residing a short time at Flint and making his permanent home in Battle Creek in 1882. For about ten years he was proprietor of a paint and wall-paper store and did decorating and painting. In 1884 he also opened an office for real estate and insurance, and for a quarter of a century was one of the reliable and prosperous men in this line of business. About two years before his death he took a partner, Mr. N. E. Retallick (see sketch elsewhere), who assumed the management of the insurance end of the business, and the firm was then known as Vernon & Retallick until the death of the senior member. His first office was the place now occupied by Dr. Lamoreaux, and when the Minty block was completed he moved across the street to that building, where he was located for years and where Mr. Retallick still continues the business.

The late Mr. Vernon was one of the prominent members of the St. Philip's Catholic church of this city, and regulated his private and business life by the high principles of his church. He was also affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association.

On November 6, 1880, he was married in St. Michael's church at Flint, Michigan, to Miss Sarah J. McCauley, of that city. To his family and home he gave the best of his character and affection, and outside of business his home was his lodge. The family left to mourn his death comprised his wife, Mrs. Sarah J. Vernon, and their one daughter, Onnolee, who is now Mrs. D. S. O'Callaghan; also his three sisters, Catherine and Anna, of Flint, and Mrs. J. C. O'Leary, of Butte,

Hosted by Google

Montana, and one brother, P. F. Vernon, of Flint. The daughter, Mrs. O'Callaghan, and her mother now reside at 47 Groveland avenue. Miss Onnolee Vernon, who was born in Barry county, received her education at Battle Creek, being a graduate of the St. Philip's Catholic school and of the Michigan Business & Normal College. She was then employed in the Union Trust Company of Detroit two years and with the Battle Creek Gas Company as bookkeeper a short time before her marriage. Her marriage to Dennis S. O'Callaghan was solemnized August 26, 1909.

LOUIS P. GOODWIN. The marvelous advancement that has been made in the utilization of concrete in all manner of architectural work and other constructive enterprise, has brought about the development of many thriving industries along this line, and the city of Battle Creek claims an admirably equipped and ably managed institution in the Ornamental Concrete Stone Company, of which the subject of this review is the executive head. He was the founder of the enterprise and in the same is now associated with his elder brother James A. The company, with the most approved and modern facilities, manufactures concrete building blocks, chimney blocks, and column, pier and veneer blocks, as well as many concrete products for general architectural purposes, besides dealing in lime, brick, plaster, cement, etc. The headquarters of the concern are at 144 South McCamly street, and the business has been brought to such a status of service and prosperity as to make it a valuable contribution to the industrial activities of the city in which it is established.

Louis Perry Goodwin finds due satisfaction in claiming Calhoun county as the place of his nativity. He was born in the city of Marshall, the judicial center of the county, on the 10th of July, 1884, and is a son of Frank W. and Estella (Perry) Goodwin, the former of whom was born at Parma, Jackson county, this state, and the latter at Marshall, this statement bearing evidence that both families were founded in Michigan in the pioneer days. Frank W. Goodwin learned the miller's trade in his youth and was actively identified with the milling business in Marshall and later in the old mill that occupied the site of the present Ward building in Battle Creek. He maintained his home in the latter city for a period of about ten years, and here his cherished and devoted wife was summoned to the life eternal on the 8th of September, 1888, when her son Louis P., of this sketch, the youngest of the children, was about four years of age. The father, who resided at Ithaca, the capital of Gratiot county, Michigan, and was interested with his eldest son, Theron A., in the drug business, died August 14, 1912, and was buried at Marshall. He was fifty-eight years old at the time of his death. Marjorie M., the second of the children is now the wife of Ashley C. Stone, of Ithaca; and James A. and Louis P. are the interested principals in the Ornamental Concrete Stone Company, of Battle Creek, as already noted.

Louis P. Goodwin was one year old at the time of the family removal to Battle Creek, and here he gained his early education in the public schools. Later he continued his studies in the schools at Ithaca, where he continued to reside until 1901, when he returned to Battle Creek. He founded the business now conducted under the title of the Ornamental Concrete Stone Company, the enterprise having had a modest inception on the 15th of August, 1908. Thorough knowledge of the details of manufacture combined with aggressive and honorable business methods, soon gained to the new undertaking a substantial support, and it has been developed into one of large ramifications and de-

Hosted by Google

fine success. James A. Goodwin was admitted to partnership in December, 1908, and thus the two brothers have been closely associated in the upbuilding of a prosperous enterprise which stands creditable to them and to the city in which their operations are centered. Both are progressive and alert young business men and both are held in high esteem in business and social circles in their home city. He whose name initiates this review is aligned as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party and is identified with United Commercial Travelers and the Battle Creek Lodge of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks. Louis is a member of the Baptist church.

On the 6th of November, 1903, was solemnized the marriage of Louis P. Goodwin to Miss Henriette E. Bernard, daughter of Alfred Bernard of Battle Creek, where both he and his wife continued to reside until their death. Mrs. Goodwin was born at Serena, LaSalle county, Illinois, but was reared and educated in Battle Creek, to which city her parents removed when she was a child. Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin have one son, Marshall B., who was born on the 6th of April, 1906. The family home is maintained at 93 Harvard street.

James A. Goodwin was born at Marshall, this county, on the 28th of September, 1882, and his educational training was secured in the public schools of Battle Creek and Ithaca, in which latter place he continued to be associated with his father and elder brother in the drug business until he returned to Battle Creek to enter into his present business alliance with his younger brother. He likewise is a Republican in politics and is affiliated with the Elks and the United Commercial Travelers. He and his wife reside at 85 Central street.

On the 20th of April, 1904, Mr. Goodwin was united in marriage to Miss Inez Lennox, who was born and reared at Ithaca, this state, where her father, Peter P. Lennox, is a representative business man. No children have been born of this union.

Mrs. Goodwin is a Presbyterian. Mr. Lennox served in the Third Michigan Cavalry, Company G, in the Civil war.

MAURICE P. CARNEY. In naming the men whose activities have been of a nature beneficial to Battle Creek, extended mention should be given to Maurice P. Carney, whose work in connection with the architectural and engineering contracts on some of the city's largest buildings has been of a character to leave its impress on the city for many years to come. He has done well all the tasks allotted to him, has built up a reputation for tireless industry that has accomplished great things along the right lines, and has shown the highest kind of executive ability, and as a result stands high in the esteem of his fellow citizens. Mr. Carney was born in Climax township, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, May 31, 1870, and is a son of William H. and Hannah (Powers) Carney.

Silas A. Carney, grandfather of Maurice P. Carney, took up one hundred and sixty acres of land from the Government at an early day, and was engaged in farming in Kalamazoo county throughout his life, passing away when seventy-two years of age, while his wife was sixty-five years old at the time of her demise. On the maternal side, the grandfather of Mr. Carney was D. C. Powers, who also was an early settler of Kalamazoo county, and took up two hundred acres of land from the Government, spending the remainder of his life in Climax township and passing away at the age of seventy-five years. His wife, who was of the old Benjamin Harrison stock, was born in 1819, in Marion county, Ohio, and died April 18, 1912. William H. Carney, father of Maurice P., was born in Climax township, and spent his entire active career in farming, but on his retirement in August, 1885, came to Battle Creek,

Hosted by Google

where his death occurred December 29, 1898. He and his wife had a family of four children: Frank, who died when about one year old; Maurice P.; Grace, who graduated from the Battle Creek high school in 1892, and married V. E. Spaulding, of Kalamazoo; and Daniel A., residing in Battle Creek.

After attending the public schools and the Battle Creek high school, Maurice P. Carney took a course of three and one-half years in the Michigan Agricultural College, where he learned mechanical engineering. He then spent six months in Battle Creek, after which he traveled around the country to some extent, visiting Chicago, St. Paul, Milwaukee and Cleveland, and doing engineering work. In December, 1902, he returned to Battle Creek, where he has devoted his time to architectural and engineering work. At the present time he is chairman of the building committee of the new City Hall. In politics a Republican, he is senior alderman from the Second Ward, having been elected to that office in April, 1911, for a term of two years. Fraternally, he is connected with the F. & A. M., Lodge No. 12, the Lodge, Chapter and Council of Masonry, and the Knights of Pythias, and Elks, and also holds membership in the Athelstan Club and the Battle Creek Industrial Association. With his family, he attends St. Thomas Episcopal church, where he is clerk of the vestry, superintendent of the grounds and buildings, and active in the work of the Sunday school.

Mr. Carney was married in Kalamazoo, Michigan, to Miss Carrie Westnedge daughter of Thomas and Mary (Burchnall) Westnedge, citizens of Kalamazoo. Mrs Carney was born in New York state, and educated in Kalamazoo county, Michigan, where her parents are at present residing. Mr. and Mrs. Carney have two children: Richard B. W., born in Kalamazoo county, September 15, 1899, and now attending school in Battle Creek; and Beatrice, born October 22, 1901, in Cleveland, Ohio. The family residence is located at No. 156 Upton avenue. Mr. Carney has won wide recognition of his abilities through his identification with earnest and hard-working bodies of men whose efforts have helped toward better things, while among his business associates he is known as a man whose integrity has ever been unquestioned.

Alonzo E. McBeth, D. V. S. On the 21st of August, 1908, was summoned to the life eternal the soul of a man whose sterling integrity and most exemplary Christian character have left an indelible impress upon the hearts of his fellowmen. At the time when he was called from the scene of his mortal endeavors he was in his forty-third year and it may be said concerning him that "his strength was as the number of his days." The prestige which he gained as a fair and honorable man was the result of his own well directed endeavors and his success was on a parity with his ability and well applied energy. Dr. McBeth located in Battle Creek in 1889 and here gained renown as one of the best veterinary surgeons in the State. He was loyal and public spirited in his civic attitude and was incumbent of a number of important offices of public trust and responsibility.

Dr. Alonzo E. McBeth was born on a farm in the township of Williamsberry, county of Simcoe, province of Ontario, Canada, January 2, 1864. His father, Donald McBeth, was of Scotch descent and he was born and reared in Canada, where he was engaged in the manufacturing business during the greater part of his active career. Dr. McBeth received his educational training in the public schools of his native place and that discipline was later supplemented with a course of study in the Ontario Veterinary College, in which excellent institution he was gradu-

Hosted by Google

ated with honors, in March, 1889, duly receiving the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Surgery. He came to Battle Creek immediately after his graduation and here he continued to reside and to practice his profession until his death, in 1908. He built up a splendid patronage and with the passage of time came to be recognized as the most efficient doctor in his particular branch in the country.

In 1890 Dr. McBeth engaged in the livery business, later purchasing the interests of his partner and continuing in the business alone. He was a breeder of thoroughbred race horses, a number of which were winners. In his political convictions Dr. McBeth was a stalwart supporter of the principles and policies for which the Republican party stands sponsor. April 18, 1904, he was chosen as alderman from the Second ward to fill a vacancy. In the spring elections of 1905 and 1907 he was again returned to the council by overwhelming majorities. He was a man who was kind and courteous in his home life, honest and industrious in his business dealings, and sincere and earnest in his public duties. He was esteemed by all who knew him and had no enemy among all the city officials notwithstanding the fact that he was constantly associated with them for several years prior to his demise. His business integrity and generous spirit won for him the confidence of all with whom he came into contact. He was president of the common council at Battle Creek and senior alderman of the Second ward when he died.

The Doctor passed away on Friday, August 21, 1908, after a very brief illness. The Monday preceding his demise he enjoyed his usual good health and on Tuesday witnessed the races in Lansing, in which one of his own horses was entered. Early Wednesday morning he was taken suddenly ill and died the following Friday, his death being the result of a hemorrhage of the brain. The funeral services were held at the First Presbyterian church and the same was attended by lodge members and city officials in a body. A profusion of beautiful floral offerings covered the casket and the front of the altar, the remembrances including pieces from the different lodges and from friends and acquaintances. A floral wheel with one spoke missing represented the sorrow of the city council. Rev. Frederick H. Bodman, of the Independent Congregational church of this city, spoke eloquently of the life of the departed, declaring him to have been a man of honest and upright dealings. The services were conducted under the auspices of the Masonic order and were most impressive. The remains were followed by a long funeral cortage to Oak Hill cemetery where interment was made. Six members of the city government acted as pall bearers. In 1909 Mrs. McBeth, widow of the deceased, erected a beautiful monument to the memory of her husband. The same was engraved by John M. Thom, of this city, and had the Masonic emblem cut in stone and also a cut of the Doctor's favorite horse.

Following are extracts from the tribute paid by the city council to its deceased president, the same being considered worthy of insertion here:

"Alonzo E. McBeth, president of the common council of the city of Battle Creek and senior alderman from the Second ward, departed this life at his home in this city on Friday, the 21st day of August, 1908.

"The surviving members of this body wish to place on record some tribute of love and admiration, though we realize that such tribute must be meager at the best.

"No man ever sat in the council who commanded a higher respect from his associates. He was a tireless worker for the betterment of the city and his ward. Many permanent municipal improvements stand as monuments to his zeal, business foresight, and honest labor. His sudden

Hosted by Google

departure cast a deep gloom over our city for he was beloved by all classes of citizens,—rich and poor, high and low. He was never known to turn his back on an honest appeal for aid and frequently he gave more than his means justified. Had Dr. McBeth longer survived, many public and political honors would have been his for the asking.

"We bow our heads in sorrow to pay to his memory the highest tribute—that of being a good and honest man. The words of a famous poet are a fitting conclusion:

'To thou who are cleansed of sin and pride, sorrow
and lust and shame,
Borne on the breath that men call death our brother's
spirit came.
Scarce had he need to cast the pride or slough the
dross of earth,
E'en as he trod that day to God, so walked he from
his birth,
In simpleness and gentleness and honor and clean
mirth.'

"Be it resolved: That this memorial be spread at large upon the official minutes of this meeting and a certified copy thereof sent to the widow of our beloved friend and departed brother."

August 29, 1900, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. McBeth to Miss Josephine Howard, who was born and reared at Montreal and who is a daughter of C. S. Howard. Mrs. McBeth survives her honored husband, as do also two uncles. The doctor had no children. Mrs. McBeth is a woman of most gracious personality and is deeply beloved by all with whom she comes in contact.

In a fraternal way Dr. McBeth was affiliated with the time-honored Masonic order, the Knights of the Tented Maccabees, the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, and the Knights of Pythias. In this day, when disinterested citizenship is all too rare a jewel, it is helpful to reflect upon a course of high-minded patriotism such as that of Dr. McBeth. His genial, kindly manner won him the kind regard and good will of all with whom he came in contact and thus his death was uniformly mourned throughout Battle Creek and the surrounding district.

Mrs. McBeth is and always has been a great lover and friend of horses and animals. She is a member of the Humane Society.

JACOB WEICKGENANT. He whose name initiates this review is a native son of Calhoun county and has been a resident of Battle Creek from his boyhood days. Here he has developed and matured his admirable initiative and administrative powers and has risen to a position of definite precedence as one of the most enterprising and successful merchants not only of Battle Creek but of this entire section of southern Michigan. He has been dependent upon his own resources from early youth, has guided his course along a high plane of integrity and honor, has gained the unqualified confidence and esteem of the community that has long represented his home, and has won success of such distinctive order as to place him in the front rank of the leading merchants of Battle Creek, where he now conducts three retail establishments, besides being an interested principal in one of the prominent mercantile concerns in the city of Kalamazoo. His character and achievement entitle him to specific recognition in this history of his native county, in which he is known as a most liberal, loyal and progressive citizen.

Jacob Weickgenant was born at Marshall, the judicial center of

Hosted by Google

Calhoun county, Michigan, on the 11th of January, 1863, and is a son of John and Appolina (Thoma) Weickgenant, both of whom were born in the grand duchy of Baden, Germany, and the latter of whom died when the subject of this review was about two years old. About three years later he came with his father and step-mother to Battle Creek, where he has maintained his home during the long intervening years and where he has won success worthy of the name. His father was engaged in saloon and tavern business during the major part of his active career and continued to reside in Battle Creek until his death, as did also his second wife. Jacob Weickgenant gained his early education in the public schools of Battle Creek and his ambition as a mere boy was one of definite action,—a trait that has significantly characterized his entire business career. When about seventeen years of age he secured employment in the local dry-goods store of Wakelee & Griswold, and with this firm he remained for two years, during which he applied himself earnestly and effectively, with the result that even at that early period in his life his employers predicted that he would eventually become one of the successful merchants of the city. After leaving the employ of the firm mentioned he was for eight years a popular and valued salesman in the dry-goods establishment of Peter Hoffmaster, and thereafter he passed eighteen months as a clerk in the dry-goods store of Edwin E. Trump. In the meanwhile Mr. Weickgenant had carefully conserved his resources and had also gained high reputation in local business circles, as he had familiarized himself thoroughly with all departments of the mercantile enterprise with which he had been associated and had shown himself resourceful, self-reliant and invariably courteous.

On the 10th of August, 1891, Mr. Weickgenant made his first independent business venture, by opening a well equipped dry-goods store at No. 4 Main street, east, where he continued in successful business for more than twenty years. To his original stock he finally added women's suits, cloaks, etc., as well as carpets, rugs and draperies. His main establishment is now located at Nos. 6 and 8 Main street, east, and in the same are carried large and well selected lines of dry goods, women's ready-to-wear garments and shoes, this being one of the best equipped stores of this order in the metropolis of the county. On the 20th of October, 1908, Mr. Weickgenant expanded the scope of his business enterprise by opening another establishment, at 37-41 Main street, west, and this store is devoted to the handling of furniture, carpets, rugs and draperies, the stock being the largest of the kind in the city. In May, 1909, further evidence of the progressive enterprise and broad executive capacity of Mr. Weickgenant was given by his opening of the thoroughly metropolitan grocery store which he now conducts, at 15 Jefferson avenue, north. At the time of establishing his business on Main street, west, he purchased the stocks of Charles W. Eccles and Carl F. Beach, which he combined in the new store, and in opening his grocery establishment he purchased the business which had been conducted in the same location by Frederick Robbins, consolidating with the same a stock of groceries which he purchased from James Redner, who was engaged in business on Main street, west. He gives a careful supervision to all departments of his large business enterprises, and has energy enough for many men. His success has been not an accident but the logical result of progressive policies, wide and varied experience, careful and honorable methods and unequivocal personal popularity. As a boy he gained many friends in the community, and as a representative business man he has held the confidence and good will of all with whom he has come in contact, so that his standing in the city is one of distinctive prominence and influence. In March, 1905, Mr. Weickgenant became

Hosted by Google

one of the interested principals in the Weickgenant & Riede Company, which conducts a large and prosperous enterprise at No. 5 West Main street in the city of Kalamazoo, this establishment being devoted to the handling of dry goods and women's apparel.

In 1910 Mr. Weickgenant became associated with Edward Coe in the purchase and platting of a summer-resort at Waubascon lake, in Bedford township. They have made successful development of this property, which has been equipped with an attractive pavilion, ice house, sheds, etc., besides a small store in which are handled groceries, confections and other supplies in demand at such a resort. The place is known as Waubascon Lake Resort and it is becoming one of the popular places of this section of the state, a number of lots having been sold and cottages having been erected on the same, while the projectors of the enterprise maintain a due complement of boats for rent, as well as other equipments for the entertainment and comfort of those who seek this attractive place of rest and recreation.

This review could scarcely be consistent were there failure to mention the fact that in the past years Mr. Weickgenant was a most loyal devotee of the great national game, base ball, and that he was one of the most prominent and influential factors in maintaining the local base ball association, in which he owned the controlling stock for a number of years. He was also the owner of Athletic Park, at Goguac lake, this being the ground on which the ball games were played, but he sold this property in 1910. He was interested in the Michigan base ball league about fifteen years ago, when the Battle Creek team known as the Cero-Fruito ball club held precedence as the best in the entire league.

As may well be inferred, Mr. Weickgenant is essentially broad-minded and public-spirited in his civic attitude, and he is ever ready to lend his co-operation in the furtherance of measures and enterprises projected for the general good of the community. In a generic sense he is a supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, in the faith of which he was reared, but in local affairs he gives his support to the mean and measures meeting the approval of his judgment, without reference to strict partisan lines. He has never held public office and has never had any desire for the same. He and his family are communicants of the Catholic church, in which they hold membership in the parish of St. Philip's church. He and his wife and children are most zealous and devout churchfolk, and for more than thirty-five years he has never failed to attend mass on Sunday and other important church days, except when absent from home and in a locality in which there was no Catholic church. Mr. Weickgenant is affiliated with the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, the German Workingmen's Benevolent Association, the Knights of Columbus, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Knights of the Modern Maccabees. The attractive family home, at 202 North avenue is known as a center of cordial hospitality and is a favorite resort for the many friends of the ideal family circle.

On the 5th of March, 1889, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Weickgenant to Miss Margaret Grant, of Kalamazoo, this state. She was born at Albion, Michigan, and is a daughter of Henry and Mary (Hodgins) Grant, both of whom are deceased. In conclusion of this brief sketch is entered record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Weickgenant: Winifred L., who gained her early education in the parochial school of St. Philip's church and who was graduated in the Battle Creek high school as a member of the class of 1908, remains at the parental home and is a popular factor in the social activities of the community; Grant J. died in infancy; Norine, also attended the St.

Hosted by Google

Philip's parochial school and graduated from the Battle Creek high school in 1912; and LaVerne A., Ruth H., Charles J., Margaret, and Catherine all remain at the parental home, the children all having been afforded the advantages of the parochial schools except the youngest, who is not yet of school age, and the older children having also attended the public schools of their home city.

VERNUM WESTON. A long and useful business career has been that of this well known and highly honored citizen of Battle Creek, and his character and achievement render it most consonant that he be accorded special recognition in this publication. He came to Michigan in his youth and was one of the early representatives of the telegraphic art in the employ of the Michigan Central Railroad Company.

Mr Weston is a scion of families, of English lineage, that were founded in New England in the colonial era of our national history, and he himself claims the Empire state of the Union as the place of his nativity. He was born in Cayuga county, New York, and is a son of Joseph and Lovina (Dresser) Weston, the former of whom was born in Vermont and the latter in Massachusetts, her father having been a valiant soldier in the War of 1812. Joseph Weston became one of the representative agriculturists of Cayuga county, New York, and both he and his devoted wife continued to reside on their old homestead until they were summoned to the life eternal, when venerable in years. Of their seven sons and two daughters three sons and one daughter are now living, the subject of this review having been the sixth in order of birth of the nine children. Henry R. resides at 31 Cherry street, in Battle Creek; Sylvia Francelia is the widow of Benjamin F. Webster and resides in Los Angeles, California; and Albert M. is a resident of Boston, Massachusetts.

Vernon Weston passed his boyhood days on the old homestead farm and after availing himself of the advantages of the common schools he attended commercial college in Poughkeepsie and Syracuse, New York. In his native state he learned telegraphy, and he followed the same, in a commercial relation, at Lockport and other points in New York and later at Titusville, Pennsylvania. In 1866 he came to Michigan and entered the service of the Michigan Central Railroad Company, in whose employ he continued for thirteen years, during the greater part of which period he was train dispatcher,—first at Kalamazoo and later at Jackson. The close and sedentary employment finally brought about severe impairment of his health, and at the expiration of thirteen years of active service he resigned his position and purchased a farm of eighty acres in Albion township, Calhoun county, about one mile west of the city of Albion. There he devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits for the ensuing five years, within which he fully regained his physical strength, and he then rented his farm and went to South Dakota, where he secured a government homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres and purchased an additional tract of three hundred and twenty acres. This property, situated in Spink county, he later rented and finally sold. He returned to Calhoun county and became associated with Harvey Mann in the building and operation of the first creamery established in the city of Albion, this being known as the Mann & Weston Creamery. He continued to be identified with the enterprise for two years, at the expiration of which he sold his interest and became associated with his former partner in the agricultural-implement business at Albion, the original firm name of Mann & Weston being retained. Two years later Mr. Weston sold his interest in this business and he then removed to Battle Creek, where he took up his residence on the 1st of

Hosted by Google

February, 1890, and where he entered the employ of the Battle Creek Electrical Company, for which he superintended all of the early wiring for incandescent lights the first of which in the city he installed, nearly a quarter of a century ago, in the residence of Dr. Austin W. Alvord, on the present site of the Post Tavern. About two years after coming to Battle Creek Mr. Weston was made superintendent of the company with which he had identified himself, and he held this position until the company consolidated with the Jackson Light & Power Company, the Albion Power Company and the Kalamazoo Valley Electric Company, under the present title of the Commonwealth Power Company. With the consolidated corporation Mr. Weston remained as superintendent in Battle Creek until July, 1912, when he resigned his position, as already noted. He had been a most valued factor in the developing of the plant and service of the local electrical company and was recognized as especially well fortified both in technical knowledge and executive ability. His devotion to his work was shown emphatically in the fact that during the last twelve years of his service he did not ask for or receive a vacation. In accepting his resignation William A. Foote, president of the Commonwealth Power Company, wrote, in part, as follows: "As you say, you have been twenty-two years in the harness, and must be getting along to the place where most men feel like laying down strenuous activities. I fully appreciate the difficulties under which you have worked. While I shall very much regret to have you leave us, I can only accept your resignation. In doing so I wish to express my appreciation of the interested service you have rendered the company, without regard to hours or conditions. I hope the pleasure derived from your well earned leisure will be strengthened by the remembrance of duties faithfully performed."

Since his retirement from the executive position referred to above, Mr. Weston has been by no means idle, as he is giving his attention to the erection and sale of houses, with the intention of building an average of four each year. Within the past few years he has erected seven attractive residences in Battle Creek, including his own modern home, at 81 West Van Buren street, and in addition to this he erected and is the owner of the Weston block, on Marshall street, and the Weston block on east Main street, east, near the First Methodist Episcopal church. He has shown much progressive enterprise in this line and has contributed materially to the upbuilding of the fine metropolis of Calhoun county. He has won success through his own well ordered endeavors, is a man of strong and symmetrical character and holds secure place in the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

In politics Mr. Weston has ever given a stalwart allegiance to the Republican party, and he is well fortified in his opinions concerning matters of public import. He has been a liberal supporter of religious activities and his wife and daughter are zealous members of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Battle Creek. From the time of their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Weston have made it a rule of voluntary stewardship to devote a tenth of their income to the furtherance of charitable, religious and educational causes, and their contributions at times have exceeded the tithe which they assigned to themselves, the while they have found pleasure in thus aiding in works for the general good of their fellow men, even as they are grateful for the prosperity and happiness which have been vouchsafed to them. Mrs. Weston is identified with the Woman's League and the Travelers' Club in her home city, is a delegate from her church to the Nichols Memorial Hospital, and both she and her daughter are popular factors in the representative social activities of the community.

Hosted by Google

On the 20th of May, 1872, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Weston to Miss Emma G. Howard, who was born at Weedsport, Cayuga county, New York, within seven miles of his own birthplace, though neither was aware of this fact at the time when their acquaintanceship was formed, at Albion, Michigan, where their marriage was celebrated. Mrs. Weston is a daughter of William and Mary Elizabeth (Greenfield) Howard, both of whom were born in England. Mrs. Weston was a child at the time of the family removal to Albion, Michigan, and she was about five years old at the time of her mother's death. Her father became one of the pioneer clothing merchants at Albion, where he established his home about sixty years ago and where he continued to reside until his death. He was one of the honored and influential citizens of Calhoun county and served two terms as county clerk in the early days. Mr. and Mrs. Weston have one daughter, Glennie Gertrude, who was born in Albion, this county, and who was graduated in the Battle Creek high school, after which she was a student for one year in Lake Erie College, at Painsville, Ohio. In June 1912, she was graduated in Albion College, in her native city, and received the academic degree of Bachelor of Arts.

TIMOTHY J. KELLEHER. No member of the business community of Battle Creek occupied a higher place in the general esteem and ranked higher as a successful man than the late Timothy J. Kelleher, whose death on January 21, 1906, was an occasion of sincere mourning among all his numerous friends and associates.

Timothy J. Kelleher spent practically all of his life in this county. He was born on a farm near Marshall, October 9, 1854, so that his death occurred before he was fifty-two years of age. Spending his boyhood days on a farm and attending the public schools, he began his business career as clerk with the firm of Phelps & Murphy of Marshall, and continued with them for twelve years. In 1882 he located at Battle Creek and with Mr. Murphy established the mercantile house of Murphy & Kelleher. Later he became sole proprietor, under the name of T. J. Kelleher, a business title which has had a substantial reputation in this vicinity for many years.

August 19, 1891, Mr. Kelleher married Miss Grace Alvord, daughter of Dr. A. W. Alvord, a well known physician of this city (see sketch elsewhere.) Mr. Kelleher was survived by his wife and two children, Philip A. and Josephine A., besides two sisters and four brothers —Misses Lizzie and Mary Kelleher of Marshall, B. A. Kelleher, of Marshall, T. A. Kelleher, of Battle Creek, and Dennis and Charles of Cadillac. The son Philip A. is now a junior in the high school and the daughter Josephine is in the grades.

Mr. Kelleher's death occurred in St. Petersburg, Florida, where he had gone to regain his health. He had been a resident of Battle Creek twenty-four years, and citizens of all classes felt that one of the strongest and best members of the community had been taken. The resolutions of the business men paid a fine tribute to his life and character. He had been active in the organized effort which resulted in the Grand Trunk shops being located in this city. Though of conservative temper, he was progressive in the best sense of the word, in that he was always willing to co-operate for the permanent welfare of his home city. His death was a special bereavement to his family, for his home was his lodge and he had given it his affections and loyal service. In business his success was honorable, and in private life he never failed in the courteous high-mindedness which is the finest element of manly character. He was a member of the Athelstan Club, and in politics was Republican.

Hosted by Google

Mrs. Kelleher, who with her children resides in the beautiful home at 72 Fremont street, was educated in the Battle Creek high school and at Olivet College, and before her marriage was a teacher in the city schools. She still owns the dry-goods establishment founded by her husband. It is conducted under the name of T. J. Kelleher Company, at 43-45 Main street, west, and its active manager is Thomas A. Kelleher, brother of the late merchant.

THOMAS A. KELLEHER. Among the energetic business men of Battle Creek, Thomas A. Kelleher holds an enviable position. As manager of one of the best known dry-goods stores in the city he has an opportunity to display to good advantage the necessary business qualities which he must have in order to have succeeded in this business. Before coming to Battle Creek he had gained a thorough practical knowledge of the business by his work elsewhere, and has been increasingly successful in his chosen career during the succeeding years.

Thomas A. Kelleher was born in Marshall, Michigan, on the 11th of August, 1870. He was the son of Bartholomew Kelleher and of Margaret (O'Brien) Kelleher. He has the combination of Irish and English blood in his veins, for his father was born in Ireland, while his mother was a native of London, England. The father was a lad of about ten years when his parents came to this country and settled in New York state. Later in life he came to Michigan and settled in Marshall, in this state. He married Margaret O'Brien in Jackson, Michigan, and they spent their lives in Marshall.

Bartholomew Kelleher died about twenty years ago and his wife followed him about five years later. Both died in Marshall and are buried there. They were the parents of ten children, eight of whom grew to maturity, and six of whom are now living. Of the four boys and two girls who are now alive Thomas A. Kelleher is the youngest. His brothers D. A. and C. A. are living in Cadillac, Michigan, and his two sisters, Mary and Elizabeth are in Marshall as is also his brother, Bartholomew, who is in the shoe business.

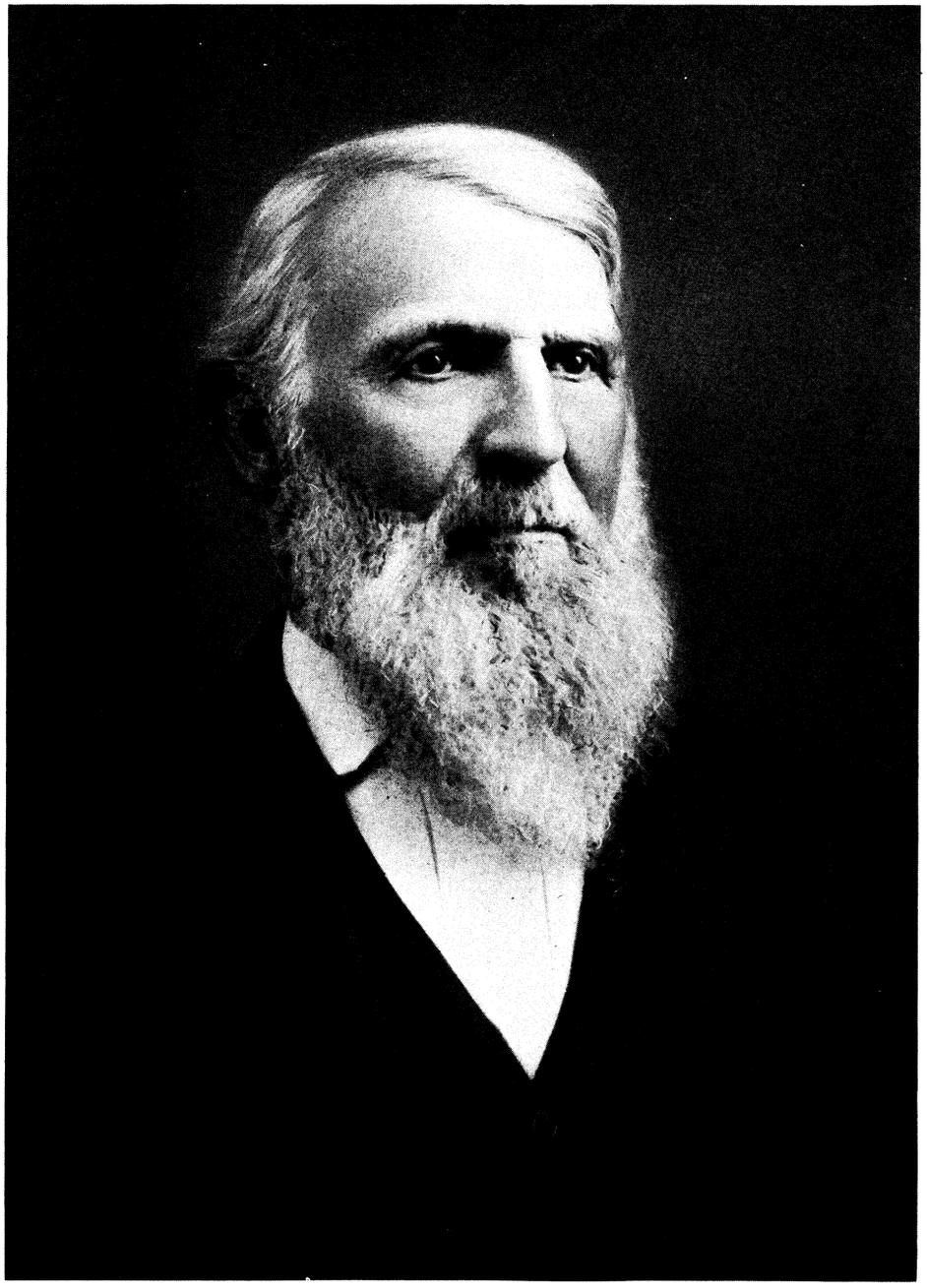
Thomas A. Kelleher received his education in Marshall, and as soon as he was allowed to, went to work. His first position was with John Butler in Marshall, as a clerk. This was in the grocery business, remaining in this business for two years. At the end of this period he went to work for George Coleman, as a clerk in his grocery store. He then left Marshall and came to Battle Creek where he went into his brother's dry-goods store. This was on the 11th of February, 1891, and he has been in this store ever since. Since the death of his brother, Timothy J. Kelleher, who is given a more extended notice elsewhere in this work, he has been manager of the store and has built up a large business. The widow of Timothy is the owner of this store, and she should be congratulated on having a man who is not only a keen business man, but also an honest one at the head of her affairs.

In his fraternal affiliations Mr. Kelleher is a member of Tent No. 54 of the Knights of the Modern Maccabees. He is a communicant of the Roman Catholic church, attending St. Philip's church in Battle Creek.

On the 16th of April, 1904, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Kelleher and Miss Pearl H. Vanneter, of Williamstown, Michigan. This was the town of her birth and her education, though after her elementary education was finished she attended the state normal school at Ypsilanti, Michigan. She then taught school for about ten years at school number Nine, in Battle Creek, and at the time of her marriage was principal of this school. Mr. and Mrs. Kelleher are the parents of

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



E. C. Mendenhall

Hosted by Google

two children, Elizabeth and John Thomas, both of whom were born here in Battle Creek.

ELIAS C. MANCHESTER. In the venerable and honored citizen who died at his home in Battle Creek, June 11, 1904, the city possessed not only its oldest resident, but also a man who represented in his long career the prominent social and civic elements which composed the citizenship of this community throughout its growth from a frontier settlement to a modern municipality. The late Elias C. Manchester was a very remarkable man. Ninety-one years old at the time of his death, he had spent sixty-eight of these years at Battle Creek. He was both a witness and actor in the changing developments of this long time. A substantial degree of material prosperity rewarded his industrious efforts, but the honor paid to his memory is more specially due to his fine independence of character, his active influence in the social and political movements experienced at different times in the last century by this locality. He was a pioneer, a successful business man, and a broad-minded vigorous citizen.

Elias C. Manchester was born in the township of Scipio, Cayuga county, New York, June 29, 1813. Brought up on his father's farm, he spent his summers in work and attended the common schools which existed in New York state at that time. He was a first-class scholar and when he was eighteen was employed to teach the home district school. The family were of the Quaker faith, and he was one of the prominent members of that sect which colonized in Calhoun county during the period of first settlement. About the time he reached his majority he turned his attention to the undeveloped west. His brother-in-law was a close friend of Squire Meachem, an owner of large tracts of land in southern Michigan, and it was due to this relation that young Manchester pointed his investigations toward Calhoun county.

His permanent settlement was preceded by a tour of exploration in the spring of 1836. From the settlements in eastern Michigan a wild-winding trail led him through dense forests and over untamed prairies into the heart of Calhoun county, and scattering log houses were practically the only evidence of the improvement made by white civilization. On the site of Battle Creek, at the corner now occupied by the Old National Bank, stood the only business house then in this settlement, the general store kept by William Coleman. But to a youth with the enthusiasm of a pioneer, the opportunities of the situation made a strong appeal, and immediately on reaching New York he made preparations to move his family to the west. The date of his arrival for permanent settlement was in September, 1836.

His settlement was on the northwest corner of section 1, township 2 south, range 8 west, in the old township of Milton, and the site of his home is now occupied by the Phelps Sanatorium. At the time of his settlement the entire vicinity was covered with underbrush and timber, and it required many days of labor to clear the ground for his first crops. In 1852 he erected on the original site a brick residence, and that remained one of the landmarks, with many intimate associations for the Manchester family, until it was torn down to make room for the Phelps Sanatorium.

The late Mr. Manchester was interested in and prominently identified with the social, temperance, political and religious movements of his lifetime. During his early career he was a Whig in politics, and served his locality as justice of the peace, supervisor, and in other official capacities. He was an ardent abolitionist and free-soiler, and from its organization for a number of years was identified with the

Hosted by Google

Republican party. When prohibition became in his judgment the dominant question of American public interest, he espoused the party of that cause, and still later was affiliated with the Greenback party. He never lost his active interest in the temperance movement, and was one of the prominent members of the Good Templars organization and for three years president of the grand lodge of the state. The Grange movement was one to which he gave all the enthusiasm of his nature, and he was a charter member of the Battle Creek Grange, No. 66, Patrons of Husbandry. The grange had charge of his funeral, held at his old home 436 Maple street, and four of the active members were pall-bearers.

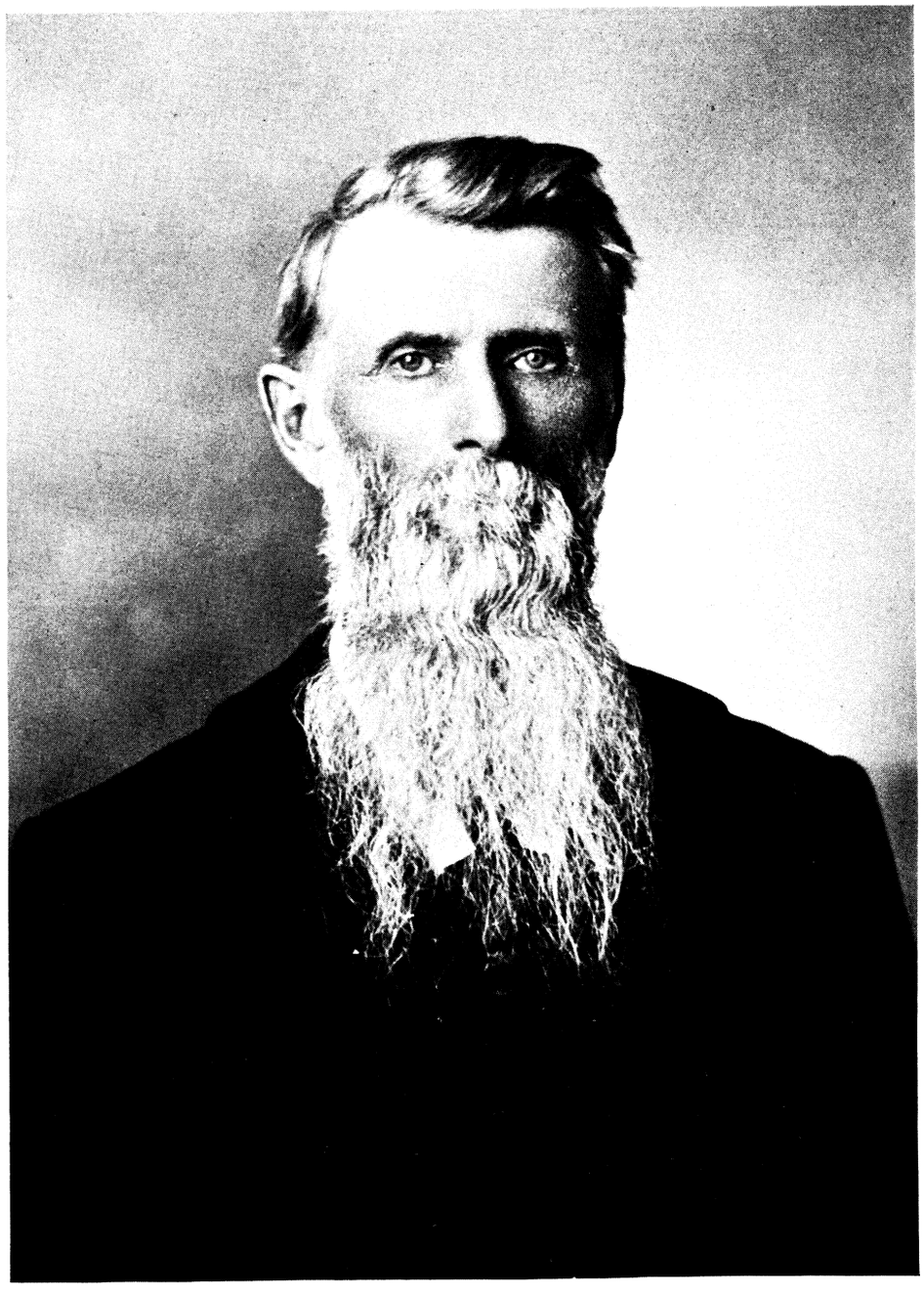
Farming was his regular occupation for many years, but he was also one of the factors in the mercantile affairs of this city. From 1857 to 1863 he was senior member of the firm of Manchester & Averill, which during part of the time was Averill, Briggs & Company. This well known business firm was dissolved in 1863, and Mr. Manchester then returned to farming.

At the age of twenty-one, in his native township of Scipio, New York, he was married by Quaker ceremony, to Miss Amy Ann Howland. Their happy wedded career was protracted for more than sixty years, until the death of Mrs. Manchester on June 28, 1896, and was blessed with the birth of nine children who reached years of maturity. These children, seven of whom are still living, were as follows: Caleb, of Augusta, Michigan (see sketch); Adelina and Stephen, deceased; Perry H., of Butte, Montana; Charles E., of Battle Creek, (see sketch); Elias, of Kansas City, Missouri; Mary, the wife of the late William Galloway, of Battle Creek; Frank of Rockford, Illinois; and H. W., of Battle Creek. All were born and educated in Battle Creek, and the family record is further notable for the fact that five of the sons were soldiers of the Union at the same time. Elias and Charles were in the same company of the First Michigan Cavalry; Caleb was in the Eleventh Michigan Cavalry, Stephen was in Company C of the Twentieth Michigan Infantry, and later with Charles and Elias in Company F, First Cavalry; while Perry was a member of the Twentieth Michigan Infantry and was wounded in the battle of the Wilderness.

The late Mr. Manchester, as already noted, was brought up in the Quaker faith, but later in life found his religious comfort in spiritualism, was one of the prominent members of the local society, and for three years was president of the state association. In religion and all other serious subjects of life he exercised an independent judgment. What commended itself to his reason he accepted and made an integral part of his daily life. And at the same time he rejected no theory or faith without an impartial examination. He was a reader all his life, and considered deeply all he found in books or the conversation of men. In his family and in his community he bore a lifelong reputation for integrity and high-principled character, and among the pioneers of Battle Creek none deserves greater esteem and more lasting memory than the one who at his death was the last survivor of the times when Battle Creek was an outpost of civilization in the midst of the unbroken wilderness.

CALEB MANCHESTER. Soldier, business man, public-spirited citizen, farmer and capable official, Caleb Manchester, now residing at Augusta, Michigan, has had a long and active career of usefulness and is eminently worthy of mention in a work setting forth the incidents in the lives of the representative men of his part of Michigan. Born January 22, 1838, in Battle Creek, he received his early education in that city,

Hosted by Google



Caleb Manchester

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

and subsequently attended the Agricultural College one year. When twenty-six years of age, September 1, 1864, he enlisted for service in the Civil war, becoming a private of Company G, Eleventh Michigan Cavalry, at Albion, Michigan. On September 30, 1864, he joined his regiment at Lexington, Kentucky, and in November was made a corporal and on March 1, 1865, was made sergeant, receiving his honorable discharge as such, June 16, 1865, at Knoxville, Tennessee. He participated in numerous skirmishes and minor battles, and took part in the Saltville Raid, in Virginia, and a number of others, and throughout his army service proved himself to be a brave and faithful soldier. On his return from the war he resided in Battle Creek for one year, then moving to Ionia county, Michigan, where he made his home until 1883, being extensively engaged in farming. In that year he went to Adrian, Michigan, where he devoted his energies to the gravel roofing business during the next ten years, and then returned to Battle Creek and until 1902 was engaged in the fence business.

Since 1902 Mr. Manchester has lived practically retired from business activities, although he owns three acres within the corporation limits of the village of Augusta, in Ross township, Kalamazoo county. Public life has demanded a great deal of his attention, he being a strong and influential Republican. For four years he served as village assessor of Augusta, was elected justice of the peace for four years, and has held various other township offices. Fraternally, he is connected with Adrian Lodge No. 19 F. & A. M., having been connected with the Masonic fraternity since 1859; and Bryant Chapter, Eastern Star of Battle Creek. He also belongs to Woodbury Post No. 45, Grand Army of the Republic, of Adrian, and has never missed a reunion of his regiment. For eleven years he was a member of the election board of Battle Creek.

On February 4, 1861, Mr. Manchester was married to Miss Valeda Sawtell, daughter of Zerah Sawtell and wife, of Bedford township, Calhoun county, Michigan, and she died October 21, 1881, at Muir, Ionia county, Michigan, where she is buried. Mr. and Mrs. Manchester had three children: Cora, born in Parma township, near Albion, Jackson county, Michigan, who was for seventeen years in the telegraph office at Adrian, died in that city, in December, 1905, and is there buried; Addie Valeda, born in Ionia county, and now the wife of L. D. Swisher, of Adrian; they have two sons, Bertram and Donald; and Louis B., of Cleveland. Louis B. married Edna Daniels of Lima, O. They had four children: Ida V., deceased, Cora L., Louise L., and Edna M. Louis B. was born in Ionia county, Michigan, and educated in the schools of Adrian, and in June, 1898, enlisted in the army for service during the Spanish-American war, going first to Porto Rico, with Gen. Miles, as a member of the signal service. He was subsequently transferred to the Philippines in 1900, and after his three years of service had expired he enlisted for another three years, and on the expiration of that term of service prepared to return to his home. At that time, however, the United States government, established a trade school, and he was offered and accepted the telegraph department, of which he had charge until taking charge of the telegraph lines in the Constabulary, in which he became captain, in the island of Cebu. After two years, however, he resigned and came home, and at this time is an employe of the test station of the Western Union Telegraph station at Cleveland, Ohio, where the lines of the Associated Press and the Board of Trade pass through.

CHARLES E. MANCHESTER. One member of the family of the late Elias C. Manchester who has been identified with Battle Creek for many

Hosted by Google

years is Charles E. Manchester, whose birth occurred in this city on the 12th of December, 1845.

Mr Manchester during his boyhod attended the old Battle Creek schools, and when he left home to begin his practical career he bought eighty acres of land in Ionia county and was engaged in farming there for eleven years. Farming has been his principal occupation during his active career, but he has also been one of Battle Creek's merchants.

He was only a boy when the Civil war broke out, but like the other four brothers of the family he offered his services to the Union, and for ten months was a private in Company F of the First Michigan Cavalry, having his brothers Stephen and Elias as comrades. Mr. Manchester is a Republican in politics, and is a member of the Farragut Post No. 32, G. A. R., at Battle Creek. For seven years he was truant officer for the city schools. Fraternally Mr. Manchester is a Mason, having membership in the Battle Creek Lodge No. 12, A. F. & A. M., and being also a Knight Templar, and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in this city. For several years he has lived retired, his home being at 179 Upton avenue. He was married on March 26, 1872, to Miss Ella Carpenter, daughter of Elisha Carpenter, of Bedford township, this county. Mrs. Manchester's death occurred June 26, 1901. They had no children.

SOLOMON SELLERS. One of the oldest and most honored families of Calhoun county is represented by Mr. Solomon Sellers, who is himself one of the oldest living citizens of the county. He was born in Juniata county, Pennsylvania, February 12, 1827, and has passed his eighty-fifth birthday and has lived in this county nearly seventy years. He is one of the few men whose memories carry them back to the actual pioneer conditions that existed in this part of Michigan when he was a boy.

His parents were William and Elizabeth (Horning) Sellers, both natives of Pennsylvania but of German parentage. William Sellers when a boy was bound out according to the old custom then in vogue, and learned the weaver's trade, at which he employed himself during his residence in Pennsylvania and also at odd times later in life. He obtained some education in the German language, but not in the English. A beautiful penman, he did a good deal of work later in life as a bookkeeper. He became a settler in Michigan in 1839, and two years later moved from Livingston county to Calhoun county, where one of his sons had already located, in the township of Clarence. This son was the first blacksmith of that town, a distinction which has heretofore been mentioned in histories of this county. William Sellers, the father, bought the one hundred and sixty acres of land in that township which his son Samuel had already located. After four years of residence in Convis township, where he later moved, the death of his wife broke up the home, and he spent the rest of his life in the home of his daughter Mrs. Jane E. Wood, in Livingston county. Of the thirteen children in the family, eight reached maturity, three daughters and five sons.

Of these Solomon was the youngest and is the last survivor. He was about twelve years old when he came to Michigan, and attended school for three months in the district school of Convis township, during the winters but forgot the winter's learning during the summer that followed. Until retiring to Battle Creek he had been a continuous resident of Convis township since 1844, and was one of the successful farmers and influential citizens of that vicinity. He served one term as township assessor, and has always been a Republican in politics. He has been a member of the Adventist Tabernacle in Battle Creek since 1861. His home is at 232 West Van Buren street.

Hosted by Google

Mr. Sellers was married in Battle Creek, April 25, 1853, to Miss Sarah Ann Dougherty. Their married life was a long and happy one, and nearly eight years passed after the golden anniversary of their wedding before their companionship was broken by the death of Mrs. Sellers on the 8th of February, 1911. She was born in New Jersey, a daughter of John and Ellen Dougherty, who came to America from Ireland, and afterwards in 1844 located in Convis township. Mr. and Mrs. Sellers were the parents of four children, one dying in infancy, and the three now living are: John William, who is on the old homestead in Convis township; Clarence W., of Battle Creek; and Luella M. All were born in Convis township, and were educated in the public schools of Battle Creek and the old college here. The boys both attended the Stone's Business College, and the daughter was formerly a teacher of this city.

CLARENCE W. SELLERS. Clarence W. Sellers, son of the venerable pioneer citizen, Solomon Sellers, is one of the progressive and successful business men of Battle Creek. For a number of years he has been identified with the public affairs of this city and county.

He was born at the old homestead in Convis township, July 22, 1862, and while a boy attended the district schools. Later he entered school in Battle Creek and was a student of the old college. He also spent one year in the high school at Bellevue, Eaton county, and completed his training by a course in C. W. Stone's Business College of Battle Creek.

For two years he was engaged in farming, but since 1894 has been a resident of Battle Creek. In that year he established the Sellers West End Hack and Livery Line, and was more or less actively engaged in its management for about ten years. During the term of Sheriff David Walkingshaw he served as deputy sheriff, and then for three years was a constable of this city. Politically he is a Republican.

Mr. Sellers' principal enterprise for several years has been the Sellers Pony and Stock Farm Company, of which he is proprietor. This is one of the noteworthy agricultural and stock establishments of the county, and is located in Penfield township two miles from the city. The farm consists of four hundred acres, and is devoted to the raising of standard bred Shetland ponies and to dairy and other stock raising.

Recently Mr. Sellers became one of the organizers of the Albion Coal Company Ltd. He has a lease on a thousand acres of land in this county, two and a half miles north of Albion, and beneath the surface has been discovered the only commercial coal deposits in this part of the state. The company have struck a three and one-half to five foot vein of good coal, and are pushing the operations for working the deposit at the earliest possible date. Mr. Sellers is also owner of city real estate, including his pleasant home on West Van Buren street, adjoining the residence of his father.

On January 6, 1894, he was married to Miss Amy Rand, of Faribault, Minnesota. Her father, Howard Rand, is now a resident in Battle Creek and her mother is deceased. Mrs. Sellers is a native of Minnesota, where she was educated, attending the Mankato Normal, where she graduated, and then taught school in that state for several years. Mr. and Mrs. Sellers are the parents of two children. Wellyn C. and Lulu M. both born in Battle Creek and both in high school.

HENRY F. BECHMAN. As superintendent of the Duplex Printing Press Company of Battle Creek, Mr. Bechman is prominently identified with the industrial and business activities of the metropolis of Calhoun county, and he has been a resourceful factor in the promotion of the important enterprise with which he has been actively identified for a score of years.

Hosted by Google

Mr. Bechman claims the Hawkey state as the place of his nativity and is a scion of one of its sterling pioneer families. He was born at Muscatine, Iowa, on the 18th of February, 1857, and is a son of Henry F. and Katherine Elizabeth (Koerle) Bechman, both of whom were born in the kingdom of Saxony, Germany, and both of whom were children at the time of the immigration of the respective families to America, the mother came in 1838, and the father not long after. The parents of each established their residence in Iowa soon after arrival in the United States and were numbered among the early settlers of that commonwealth, to the civic and industrial development of which they contributed their quota. Henry F. Bechman, Sr., was reared and educated in Germany, as was also his wife, and there their marriage was solemnized. He became a successful contractor and builder and was a man of sterling character,—one who ever commanded secure place in popular confidence and esteem. At the inception of the Civil war he tendered his services in defense of the Union, and he was a musician in the Thirty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry during his term of service. Both he and his wife passed the closing years of their lives at Muscatine, Iowa, and of their three sons Henry F., of this review, is the eldest; William died in the city of Chicago, in March, 1911; and Lewis H. is assistant superintendent of the Duplex Printing Press Company, of which his brother is superintendent.

The early educational discipline of Henry F. Bechman, of this sketch, was secured in the public schools of his native city, and when a mere lad he began to depend largely upon his own resources, as he felt called upon, as the eldest of the children, to provide for his own maintenance. In Muscatine he served a thorough apprenticeship at the machinist's trade, initiating his apprenticeship in 1869, when about thirteen years of age, and eventually becoming a skilled workman. He continued to follow his trade at Muscatine until 1877, when he went to the city of Chicago, where he continued to maintain his home for thirteen consecutive years, save for one year passed in St. Louis, Missouri. In the great western metropolis he made substantial advancement along the line of his trade and held positions of increasing trust and responsibility. In January, 1892, Mr. Bechman came to Battle Creek, where he forthwith assumed the position of superintendent of the Duplex Printing Press Company, the enterprise of which was then in its incipiency. He has retained this executive office during the intervening period of twenty years and has given his undivided time and attention to the advancement and extension of the business of the company.

Mr. Bechman began the battle of life with no capital save strong hands and a determination to succeed. He not only has gained a thorough knowledge of machinery and incidental lines but has also become a sure judge of the character and ability of men,—a fact that has had much influence in the furtherance of his personal success and that of the concern with which he has been long and prominently identified. He has worked hard for what he has won, and yet his absorption in his own line of work has never been such as to prevent him from keeping in touch with civic affairs and appreciative of opportunities presented. This has been proved by his activity in other lines of business and by his service in positions of public trust. He is a modern, aggressive business man, constantly alert and progressive in his attitude, but his own struggle has made him deeply appreciative of the ambitious efforts of others, with the result that he is sympathetic and ever ready to aid those who are striving to achieve success. Instead of becoming hardened by strenuous discipline as one of the world's productive workers, he has broadened and enriched his character, and

Hosted by Google

this is shown by his unqualified popularity in his home city and especially among the employes of the concern of which he is superintendent.

Mr Bechman is closely identified with the financial and commercial activities of Battle Creek. He is president of the American Motor Company, of this city, and is a member of the directorate of the City Bank of Battle Creek, besides which he is president of each the Bechman & Morton Real Estate Company. Under the administration of Mayor Charles C. Green he served very zealously and efficiently as a member of the board of public works of Battle Creek.

In the city of Chicago, on the 31st of July, 1882, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Bechman to Miss Frances E. Cole, who was born in Rochester, New York, where she was reared and educated. Mr. and Mrs. Bechman have one son, Francis E., who was born in Chicago, on the 13th of August, 1884, and who now resides in New York City, where he is engaged in business. He was graduated in the Battle Creek high school as a member of the class of 1903, and four years later, in 1907, he entered the literary or academic department of the University of Michigan, in which he was graduated in 1911 and from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Mr. and Mrs. Bechman have an attractive home at 195 North avenue.

William Newton Joslyn. A worthy representative of an old and honored family that for more than fifty years has been identified with the agricultural interests of Calhoun county, William Newton Joslyn, of Battle Creek, has been living retired during the past twenty years. He was born in the township of Phelps, Ontario county, New York, November 25, 1842, and is a son of Charles H. and Jane (Simmons) Joslyn.

The grandparents of Mr. Joslyn, Charles and Thankful (Field) Joslyn, were of English descent, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of Massachusetts, and were the parents of a family of twelve children, of whom Charles H. was the fifth in order of birth. They lived together for over seventy years on the same farm in Ontario county, New York, the mother dying in April, 1872, at the age of eighty-five years, while her husband survived her until June 3, 1875, and attained the remarkable age of ninety-five years, and both were buried in the cemetery at Phelps. Charles H. Joslyn, father of William Newton, was born at Phelps, Ontario county, New York, August 26, 1815, and passed his youth on the home farm, receiving his education in the district schools After his marriage he purchased a farm of sixty-one acres in New York, on which he resided for six years, then coming to Calhoun county, Michigan, and buying 140 acres of partly improved land, for which he paid $3,400. After spending fifteen years on this land, Mr. Joslyn sold out and bought another place nearby, but remained there only two years, disposing of it to purchase the property in Battle Creek township, near Goguac Lake, that is now owned by his son, and for which he paid $16,800. The remainder of his life was spent in agricultural pursuits, and he rose to be one of the most substantial farmers of his community. His death occurred December 26, 1902, and that of his wife August 5, 1905, and both are buried at Oak Hill cemetery. At the age of twenty-six years, Charles H. Joslyn was united in marriage with Miss Jane Simmons, whose parents died in Vermont when she was very young, and at the age of seven years she accompanied her older brother and sisters to Ontario county, New York, where she lived three years. She then entered the household of Ezra Newton, with whom she was residing at the time of her marriage to Mr. Joslyn.

Hosted by Google

They had a family of three children, of whom William Newton and Mrs. Alice Redfield are the only survivors. A stanch Republican in his political views, Mr. Joslyn was elected to various positions of trust and responsibility, including township clerk for three years, supervisor, member of the county board two terms and justice of the peace for a long period. He held in the fullest degree the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens and was highly regarded by all who knew him in Battle Creek, in which city the last eleven years of his life were spent.

William Newton Joslyn was ten years of age when he accompanied his parents to Michigan, and his education was secured in the district schools of Homer township, Calhoun county, which he attended when he could be spared from the duties of the home farm. In 1868 his parents removed to Battle Creek township, and there he assisted his father in cultivating the old homestead, a tract of 160 acres, located one-half mile from the city limits of Battle Creek. He has been identified with agricultural pursuits all of his life, but during the past twenty years has lived somewhat retired, his activities being confined to superintending the operation of the farm and looking after his various city real estate holdings. The residence, at No. 31 Fountain street, west, was erected under the direction of Mr. Joslyn and his father, and there he lived with his parents until their death, tenderly caring for them in their declining years. Although his father had been somewhat prominent in public matters, Mr. Joslyn has never cared to enter the p ublic arena. On one occasion he was finally persuaded to make the running for alderman of his ward, but on realizing the number of enemies he would make and the hard feelings that were sure to prevail, he reconsidered the question and declined to act as a candidate. He supports the principles and candidates of the Republican party.

Mr. Joslyn was married March 29, 1906, in Hillsdale, Michigan, to Miss Frank Louella Willard, who was born in Ithaca, New York, and educated in Litchfield, Michigan, also attending Albion College, from which she was graduated in instrumental music in the class of 1887. She is a daughter of D. F. and Elizabeth P. (Conklin) Willard, of Hillsdale. Formerly Mrs. Joslyn played the pipe organ in the church at Hillsdale, and was a general favorite at recitals. She now is well known to the members of the Presbyterian church, is active in religious work, and belongs to the Women's League of Battle Creek, in which she is known as an energetic worker. She and her husband have numerous warm friends throughout the city, and both are held in the highest esteem by all who have the pleasure of their acquaintance.

JOSEPH MOUNT BROKAW. One of the most touching characteristics of the people of the Far East those races of the Orient which we knew comparatively little about until recent years, is their filial devotion. Travelers are astonished and impressed by the affection and care lavished by the children upon their parents, a love which endures as long as life lasts, and which is something deeper and stronger than the meed of respect that is too frequently the only manifestation in the hurrying, scurrying people of our nation. Sometimes there is a refreshing instance in our own busy times. Friends of the late Joseph Mount Brokaw, of Battle Creek, love to remember that this was one of his strongest characteristics. Upon his widowed mother he lavished the tenderest care, and during the twenty years that she lived with him he accorded to her a devotion which anticipated her every want, surrounded her with an atmosphere of affection and repaid her day by day for the attention and love that she had bestowed upon him in his tender years. It was a beautiful phase of his life.

Hosted by Google

Joseph Mount Brokaw was born in Ovid, Seneca county, New York, on October 9, 1834, being a son of Tunis and Almira Brokaw, who in 1838 removed to Ypsilanti, Michigan. The father died soon thereafter. The son acquired a common school education and at the age of fifteen went to Detroit, where he started in for himself as a machinist apprentice. When he had completed his trade he worked there as a journeyman for three years and afterwards went south to New Orleans. He had a brother in that city who died of yellow fever, just prior to the Civil war. His other brother, Austin Brokaw, was a very prominent and well-to-do merchant of Angola, Indiana, but he too, has passed away. The mother, early left a widow, resided as has been stated, with Joseph for twenty years, and died in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Mr. Brokaw remained in the south for some time and was markedly successful. He was promoted to the position of master mechanic of what was then the shops of the Jackson & Illinois Railroad Company. After the outbreak of the Civil war he was arrested and taken from the office, charged with being an abolitionist. The accusation was made by some of the older men in the department, over whose heads he had been promoted, and who were in consequence jealous of his preferment, although the latter was due solely to his superior ability.

In order to get out of the city he let it be known that he was going to St. Louis on business for the company. In the meantime, in June, 1858, he had been married to Miss Mary Dowling, and he was doubly anxious that she be removed from the possibility of danger. Their departure was dramatic. Mr. and Mrs. Brokaw, surrounded by an escort of three hundred loyal men from the shops who had worked under Mr. Brokaw, marched to the wharf. The men acted as bodyguard and repelled the advances of the mob, which made angry manifestations. Thus they boarded the steamer, which was the last vessel to make the trip up the river until after the close of the war.

Arrived at his boyhood home at Ypsilanti Mr. Brokaw found that he did not wish to be triumphed over by the men who had caused him to leave the south, so he determined to go once more to the Crescent City. He sailed from New York to Havana and thence to New Orleans, arriving there just prior to the capture of Vicksburg and Port Hudson. There were but two vessels insured against the "Alabama" and on one of these he took passage, accompanied by his faithful wife, who declared that she would brave any dangers that he cared to, and expressed the determination to remain by his side. They remained in New Orleans about nine months and then returned to Ypsilanti, Michigan. After two years' stay they removed to Hudson, Michigan, which was their home for eighteen years following. Mr. Brokaw was engaged in the grocery and produce business there, with marked success. After a short residence at Grand Rapids and Owosso he removed to Battle Creek on September 18, 1883, where he spent the remainder of his life.

He purchased an uncompleted residence on West Fountain street, now known as the Austin place. This he finished and later sold, removing to East Main street, where he erected a dwelling. He also began a business block and later put up several other business houses and some dwellings, as well as a flat building. At the time he purchased property on East Main street there were comparatively few buildings in that locality, and his development helped to boom that portion of the town. He also became active in other fields of enterprise. In 1884 he began dealing in dry-picked poultry, which he shipped by the car load to New York and Chicago. He followed this until 1888 and then operated a coal and wood business for fifteen years, selling out in 1900 in order to devote all his time to the real estate business. The improvements which

Hosted by Google

he placed in the section of the city where he had invested, added greatly to the general values of that neighborhood.

Twelve children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Brokaw, of whom six died in childhood. Those who reached mature years were: Almira, wife of Dr. J. J. Lawless, of Grand Jct. Colo. She died and was buried in Battle Creek, as was also one of her children, Carroll, but the other son, Fred, is living. Josephine resides at home; Joseph M. spent seven years as a student at Assumption College, Sandwich, Ontario, a year at Monroe, Mich., and two years at Baltimore, Md., where he graduated in June, 1898, coming thence to Battle Creek. He was ordained to the priesthood on November 27, 1898, by Bishop Foley and is now the beloved pastor of a Catholic church in Reese, Michigan, twelve miles from Saginaw and Karo. Charles married Selina M. Dowling, of Pontiac, Michigan, and they have three children: Clair, Pauline, and Charles. A fourth child, Leo, is deceased. Austin, who is single, resides in St. Louis, Mo., where he is a representative of Pabst Brewery of Milwaukee.

During the later years of his life Mr. Brokaw adhered to the tenets of the Democratic party. In 1884 he was elected alderman of his ward, but after a short time resigned the post on account of his impaired hearing. He was always a supporter of the Catholic church and in his later years became one of its communicants. One of the strongest and most commendable elements in his life was his deep interest in young men and their welfare. He gave them his sympathy, encouragement and counsel and when it seemed desirable was not slow to extend material assistance with an unstinted hand. He seemed to readily comprehend the nature of young men and possessed the power of bringing to the surface latent and perhaps unsuspected qualities and developing what was best in the youth of his day. They had confidence in him and readily responded to his advances. His heart was full of sympathy and his life was guided by broad humanitarian principles.

Perhaps the most touching tribute to his worth was paid when death had sealed the lips that spoke such kindly admonitions and veiled the eyes which knew only the glance of kindness. Mr. Brokaw died on August 17, 1902, and the funeral was held in St. Philip's Catholic church, where gathered one of the largest and most representative congregations seen in the parish in many years. The solemn requiem mass was sung by his son, the Reverend Father J. M. Brokaw, assisted by the Fathers Sadlier and Fisher and the body was laid to rest in Mount Olivet Catholic cemetery. In the Sacred Heart church at Hudson, Mich., there is a memorial window as a tribute to his life.

For five years prior to his death he was a great sufferer, but never lost hope and was only confined to his bed for five days prior to his demise. He bore his pain with Christian fortitude and resignation and when the end came was cheered and solaced by the loving ministrations of his family and uplifted by the last sacrament of the mother church. Mr. Brokaw was a self-made man and was possessed of his own convictions. He left the South because he did not wish to join the Southern army, but his widow today, who shared his experiences during the war scenes is not sure that the southern people were treated right, in taking the slaves away from them. She knows that many of the slaves had no means of support and firmly believes that many of them must have starved to death afterwards. Her observation is that while some of the slave owners were cruel more than seven-eights of them were good to their slaves and merely guided their activities in a helpful way and provided better quarters and food and raiment than the negroes had after they were liberated. She feels a deep conviction that the ethical idea of equal rights was no means sufficient justification for the terrible

Hosted by Google

toll of bloodshed and death and the laying waste of property that came with the years of war.

Mrs. Brokaw still owns and maintains the family residence at 257 East Main street, which Mr. Brokaw built and where he died. Leo died in Dearborn, Mich., and was brought back to Battle Creek for burial. Mrs. Brokaw has disposed of a good deal of her property and now owns her residence on Main street and the Brokaw Block on East Main. At the time of Mr. Brokaw's death they were possessed of twenty-one rentable places in Battle Creek. Feeling that in her advanced years she did not care to look after so many she disposed of most of them. The home at 257 East Main street, which she keeps for sentimental reasons is too far from church to suit her, so she rented a home at 18 Cherry street, next door to the Catholic church, and is a regular attendant at St. Philip's.

HOMER W. CLARK. Among the well known and influential citizens of Battle Creek is Homer W. Clark, who for a number of years was one of the substantial agriculturists of this state and for the past six years has resided in this city and managed his interests in real estate.

Mr. Clark was born in Coylton township, Tuscola county, Michigan, September 25, 1870, and was the only son of John Quincy Adams Clark and Betsey M. (Moore) Clark. The parents were both natives of New York state and were married there, and about the close of the Civil war moved west to Michigan. Settling in Tuscola county, the father took up one hundred and sixty acres of government land, and with a shanty to live in began the arduous undertaking of making a home in a new country and subduing the soil and the wilderness to cultivation. He was a farmer all his life and a good citizen and neighbor. In 1876 he moved to Mecosta county, where he acquired a new farm of eighty acres, on which he lived until his death, in 1893. He was a member of the Masonic order. Of the two children in the family the daughter is now Mrs. Flora M. Bristol, wife of John Bristol, of Harbor Springs, Michigan.

Mr. Homer W. Clark received his early schooling in Mecosta county, but at the age of sixteen, when his father died, took hold of the farm work and from that time was vigorously employed in striving with the realities of life. He was a practical and progressive farmer, and has always been known as a successful man. In January, 1906, he and his mother moved to Battle Creek, where they both own considerable valuable realty, and Mr. Clark now gives most of his time to its management. He and his mother reside at 50 Poplar street.

In politics Mr. Clark gives his support to the man he considers best fitted for the office. He and his mother are both members of the First Church of Christ Scientist in this city, and he is chairman of the board of directors and treasurer of the building fund. Mrs. Flora M. Bristol, the daughter, lost her husband by death in 1909, but she still makes her home in Harbor Springs. Her one son, Mahlon D. Bristol, was born in Mescota county in August, 1889, and is now in his third year of the dental department of the University of Michigan, preparing to begin his profession as soon as he graduates in 1913.

JOHANNES DECKER. There was perhaps no better known man in Battle Creek than Johannes Decker, and in his passing away on January 18, 1910, the city lost a man who had been a resident of the city since his earliest manhood, and during whose life, his highest interests had been synonymous with these of the community which he called home. During the best part of his life, Mr. Decker had devoted himself

Hosted by Google

to the dry goods business in one capacity or another, but the past ten years of his business experience found him engaged in real estate matters, and he was largely identified with realty and building interests up to the time of his death.

Johannes Decker was born in Ulster county, New York, on March 27, 1839, and was seventy-one years of age when he died. He was the son of Josiah and Mary (Elma) Decker, both of Holland ancestry, and the family came from New York when their son Johannes was a boy. He received the major part of his education in this community, and quite early in life began his career as a dry goods man by accepting a clerkship in one of the stores of Battle Creek. Later he was engaged as a clerk in the silk department of A. T. Stewart, a prominent dry-goods merchant of New York city, and during his experience there, which lasted throughout the war period, the young man learned much of dry goods and business methods that was of immense value to him in later years. In 1866 he returned to Battle Creek and accepted a clerkship; the year following he made his first independent business venture, engaging in a partnership with S. M. Ashby, and the two conducted business here for a number of years under the firm name of Decker & Ashby. Following his connection with the firm of which he was a partner, Mr. Decker engaged as a traveling salesman for Mills & Gibbs of New York City, dealers in dry goods and notions, and he continued with them until the year 1899, when he severed his connection with this firm and thereafter gave his undivided attention to the real estate business. His careful methods and honest open manner of conducting his business affairs won him the confidence and esteem of the public and he was known for one of the most reliable and trustworthy men in his line of business in the city. He attained a high degree of success in this line, his later years being the most prosperous ones of his life. He was a man who possessed a wide circle of trusting friends, and his disposition and character were of a nature to render him entirely worthy of every confidence placed in him, however, great. Mr. Decker was a Republican, and active in a highly intelligent way in affairs of a political nature, although he could never be prevailed upon to accept an office of any kind. He was a member of the Athelstan Club of Battle Creek, and in his churchly relations, was a member of the Independent Congregational church.

Mr. Decker married Miss Ruth A. Whitmore, the daughter of Giddings and Susan (Houston) Whitmore of Fredonia township, Calhoun county, the marriage occurring on September 4, 1867. Mrs. Decker was born in Fredonia township and there educated. Her father was of English descent, while her mother was of Scotch-Irish parentage. Both were born in New Hampshire. The father was born on September 18, 1799, and died in Battle Creek in October, 1881, at the age of eighty-two years. The mother passed away in 1886. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Decker, both of whom died in infancy,—Lila and one yet unnamed at its death.

In April, 1911, the sorrowing widow of Mr. Decker caused to be erected at his burial place a handsome memorial. The solid granite square, about six feet in height, was shipped to Battle Creek in its rough state from Barre, Vermont, and was cut by A. G. McNaughton, of this city. The magnificent bronze figure of a woman which forms a part of the monument typifies Memory, and is a notable piece of work, from the design of Nellie V. Walker, a Chicago sculptor. A working model of this figure was awarded first prize at the Art Institute in Chicago. The memorial is by far one of the most beautiful in Oak Hill cemetery.

Hosted by Google

WILLIAM D. WOOD, a resident of Battle Creek since 1902, has been actively engaged in the contracting and building business in this city for the past four years. In that time he has made phenomenal progress with his business, and now occupies a prominent place among the builders and contract men of the city. He is a native of the state, born in Union City, Calhoun county, on February 12, 1871, and is the son of Frederick Duane and Clara (Reynolds) Wood, both born and reared in Chenango county, New York, in which place they were married. Following their marriage the young couple came to Michigan, settling in Union City, and they remained there for about ten years, when they returned to their old eastern home. They remained there but a short time, however, and on their return to Michigan located on a farm, three miles north of Athens. Here they lived for about eleven years, and later the mother died at the home there, her death occurring on July 16, 1900. The father died in Battle Creek in September, 1908, in which place he had lived for six years previous to his demise, making his home with one of his sons. They were the parents of a goodly family of eleven children, all of whom are yet living but one girl, Mrs. Marion Hulce. The living are: Mrs. C. H. Avery is a resident of LeRoy, this county; W. E., a resident of Battle Creek; Mrs. Emery Birmingham; Frederick, living at Paw Paw Lake; Ernest, Frank, Arthur and Bert, of Battle Creek; Myrton, of Factoryville, St. Joseph county; William D.

William D. Wood received his education principally in Athens, and while yet in his teens began to learn the carpenter's trade in that place. In the year of the World's Columbian Exposition he worked in Chicago, and gained much of valuable experience in his trade in that year. Following his Chicago experience he returned to Athens and worked at his trade until his marriage in November, 1894, after which he engaged in the meat business, continuing in that line for about three years in Athens. He once more took up the carpenter business, carrying on that work in Athens until 1902, in which year he made his advent into the industrial life of Battle Creek. He did not engage immediately in his own trade, however, as it was his intention to ultimately enter the contracting field, and he was desirous of becoming more familiar with business methods in the city before he committed himself to the responsibilities of an independent business. He went to work for the Advance Thresher Company, known now as the M. Rumely Company, and he was in their employ for nearly six years, at the end of which time he set up in business for himself. His efforts were crowned with success from the beginning, and his business has expanded in a most satisfactory manner. From a small beginning, Mr. Wood is now able to build and sell his houses on contract, dealing principally with the laboring class of people, who find it an advantage to be able to buy a neat and well-built home on the contract plan. His fair and honest methods make his propositions of peculiar interest to his patrons, and Mr. Wood experiences no difficulty in securing orders for as many houses as he can build. He has become the owner of a considerable quantity of valuable Battle Creek property, his residence on the corner of Kendall and Grove streets being his own property, as well as the residence next to his home. He has also acquired other city property in desirable parts of the city. He employs an average of fifteen men, and is busy the year around with his contracts.

Mr. Wood is an independent thinker with regard to politics. He may always be depended upon to support the best man in any political issue regardless of politics, and his support when accorded, is valuable and appreciated. He has kept well out of politics in the years of his

Hosted by Google

residence in Battle Creek, and although he has been solicited on numerous occasions to run for the office of alderman, he has always declined, firmly believing that business and politics cannot be mixed successfully. He is a member of Calhoun Tent No. 54 K. O. T. M., of Battle Creek, and with his family, is a member of the Upton Avenue Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Wood is an earnest churchman, and aside from his regular church duties as a member of the board of trustees, he has charge of a class of forty boys in the Sunday-school.

On November 1, 1894, Mr. Wood was united in marriage with Miss Allie A. Nees, at Athens, Michigan. She is a daughter of W. M. and Celestia (Ward) Nees, who came from near Marborough, Ohio, and settled in Athens, where the father was employed as a tinsmith. Previous to that he had been engaged in the hardware business as the proprietor of a store, and at one time taught school in Alliance, Ohio, and in Uniontown, that state. He died in Battle Creek on February 14, 1911, and his widow resides with her daughter, Mrs. Wood. The latter was born in Marborough, Ohio, and when she was about eight years of age her parents moved to Schoolcraft, Michigan, where she attended school until she was about sixteen, finishing in Bellevue, Eaton county, Michigan, after which her parents moved to Athens.

The Wood family occupy a warm place in the hearts of their many friends and acquaintances in this city, where they are well and favorably known, and where Mr. Wood's business standing is wholly consistent with his high character and general uprightness.

William I. Fell, to whom Battle Creek owes much for his business talent manifested in so many ways for the benefit of the community, and particularly for the part he has played in contributing to its industrial importance, is secretary, treasurer and manager of the Michigan Carton Company, and identified with other enterprises of an extensive nature. Mr. Fell was born in Belleville, Wayne county, Michigan, January 1, 1861, and is a son of William K. and Charlotte (Bush) Fell. William K. Fell was a native of Bucks county, Pennsylvania, and was born in a Quaker community, his parents being members of the Society of Friends. During his earlier years he was a miller, but later turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, and at the time of his death was the owner of a farm of 200 acres in Wayne county, about twenty miles from Detroit, on which his widow, who is a native of Belleville, Michigan, now resides. They were the parents of four sons and four daughters, as follows: Mrs. F. L. Robbe, deceased, who was a resident of French Landing, Michigan; Mrs. R. E. Gorden, deceased, who resided at Ypsilanti, Michigan; Henry L., a carpenter and builder, residing in Battle Creek; William I.; Mrs. R. E. Gorden, of Ypsilanti, who married her older sister's widower; Mrs. A. J. Hosmer, who married Dr. A. J. Hosmer, of Salt Lake City, one of the noted surgeons of the West and chief surgeon of Holy Cross Hospital, Salt Lake City, and a stockholder in the Michigan Carton Company, of Battle Creek; David J., a teacher in the commercial department of the Central High school, Detroit; and Robert M., who lives on the old homestead in Wayne county with his aged mother.

The early education of William I. Fell was secured in the public and high schools of Belleville, Michigan, and after graduating from the latter in 1879 he took a course in the Detroit Business College. Desiring to obtain a thorough knowledge of business practices and methods, he was for a number of years engaged in minor capacities in various business houses, his first employment being in the store of the leading clothier of Ypsilanti, the late J. F. Sanders. After five years with Mr.

Hosted by Google

Sanders. He decided to embark upon a business career on his own account, accordingly, Mr. Fell then formed a partnership with G. W. Densmore, and under the firm name of Densmore & Fell opened a clothing and furnishing goods store at Ypsilanti, this business being continued successfully for eight years. In the fall of 1898 Mr. Fell sold his interest to Mr. Densmore, and came to Battle Creek, and with William F. Fischer bought out the firm of Wadham, Ryan & Reule, who had a store here as well as a large one in Ann Arbor, the latter city being their headquarters and place of residence. The partnership concern of Fell & Fischer continued for three years, at the end of which time Mr. Fell sold his interests and engaged in the manufacturing business, becoming one of the founders of the Hygienic Food Company, and remaining as treasurer and member of the managing board during the next five years. In April, 1907, he organized the Michigan Carton which took over the Record Carton & Publishing Company, the present officers of which are William H. Mason, president; J. F. Byrne, vice president, and Mr. Fell, secretary, treasurer and manager. The firm manufactures folding paper boxes for food products, proprietary medicines and other package goods, as well as paper shipping containers, grouped cartons for window displays, cardboard signs and kindred articles, and has a trade that has been almost phenomenal in growth. On March 1, 1912, the forty-ton paper mill, which cost a quarter of a million of dollars, and in which is manufactured the card-board used by the company, was put into operation. It adjoins the plant at the back from the other street, and is connected therewith by a steel structure over the Kalamazoo river.

The value of this great plant in advancing the manufacturing interests of Battle Creek cannot be overestimated, and for his participation in the movement that brought about its erection, if for no other reason, Mr. Fell must be recognized as one of the leading figures in the industrial world of this section. He is also a stockholder in various enterprises. Fraternally he is connected with A. T. Metcalf Lodge, F. & A. M., and has taken the Commandery degrees, also belonging to the Shriners at Detroit, the Elks and the Athelstan Club of Battle Creek. With his family he attends St. Thomas' Episcopal church. His career shows a distinct and unqualified success. His personal character has won esteem, and the consensus of public opinion shows that he is a man of strict integrity, and as a progressive he has won a place for himself in the confidence of his business associates and the respect of his fellow-citizens.

On May 17, 1893, Mr. Fell was married to Miss Frances Gibson, daughter of the late Hon. Samuel Gibson, of Constantine, Michigan, who died there in 1911. Mrs. Fell was born and educated at Constantine, and also attended the Conservatory of Music at the State Normal school, at Ypsilanti, where Mr. Fell first met her. Their wedding trip included an extended visit to the World's Columbian Exposition, at Chicago. One child, Lawrence G., was born at Ypsilanti, June 14, 1897. The family residence is at No. 31 Orchard avenue.

CHARLES O. BALL, postmaster at Homer, is faithfully and satisfactorily discharging the duties devolving upon him in that capacity, and at the same time materially assists in maintaining the reputation of his home township as being one of the finest and richest agricultural regions of Calhoun county, having a well improved farm, which he is managing successfully. A native of Calhoun county, he was born, October 19, 1848, in Albion township, a son of Orrin and Sarah (Cogswell) Ball, being the youngest child in a family of four children. His parents

Hosted by Google

were born and reared in the Empire state, and settled in Michigan while a large part of the state was in its original wildness, the Indians still claiming the dense forests as their happy hunting grounds, and wild animals of all kinds roaming at will. Sarah Cogswell's father, Solomon Cogswell, was a lifelong resident of New York.

Acquiring his rudimentary education in the district schools of Albion township, Charles O. Ball finished his studies in the public schools of Albion and Homer. Reared under the parental roof-tree, he became familiar with the manual labor of the farm when quite young, and on the death of his father assumed the management of the homestead, which contains one hundred and sixty acres of land, and this farm is now in his possession, and to its improvement he still devotes his leisure time. Politically identified with the Republican party, Mr. Ball has filled many positions of prominence among the official authorities of town and county. He has served as justice of the peace; was for four years, from 1903 until 1907, registrar of deeds; and in 1910 was appointed postmaster of Homer, and is filling the office most efficiently. Fraternally Mr. Ball is a member of Humanity Lodge, No. 29, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons; of Lodge, No. 88, Knights of Pythias, of Homer; of Tent, No. 145, Knights of the Maccabees of the World; and of Lodge, No. 131, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, of Battle Creek.

Mr. Ball married, in 1878, Fidelia Gridley, a daughter of Abram and Jane (Babcock) Gridley, both of whom died on their homestead in Albion township. Four children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Ball, namely: Frank E., plumber in Homer; Arthur, living in Homer; Estell, a stenographer in Albion; and Floyd, living at home.

CHARLES GILCHRIST, who for the past fifteen years has been identified with the manufacturing department of the great enterprise conducted by Dr. Kellogg, is one of the well known citizens of Battle Creek. He has lived here since his boyhood, when he began in a minor capacity the service which from year to year has brought him increased responsibilities.

Mr. Gilchirst was born at Hornell, New York, July 10, 1880, the youngest of the seven children born to Alexander A. and Margaret (McLane) Gilchrist. Both his parents were natives of New York, were married there, and the father died in that state, while the mother now resides at Binghamton. The father, who was a painter by trade, owned a shop of his own at Hornell, and was also for a number of years superintendent of the painting department of the Erie Railroad shops at that place. He was also a soldier of the Civil war, having served a short time with an Ohio company. Four children of the family are now living, the other three being: John G., of Morristown, New Jersey; Catherine Doremus, of Duluth, Minnesota; and Nellie, of Retsof, New York. Two of the children died in childhood, and a son was killed on the railroad. All were natives of Hornell, but during their youth and later years became widely scattered.

Charles Gilchrist spent most of his younger days on a farm and was educated at Grand Traverse, Michigan. Fifteen years ago he entered the employment of Dr. J. H. Kellogg at Battle Creek, being first in the power house of the Sanitarium plant. Since 1903 he has been connected with the plant of the Kellogg Food Company, and at the present time he is the director of the baking and shipping departments.

Outside of the varied responsibilities of his business, Mr. Gilchrist finds his greatest pleasures in his home at 105 Walter avenue. He has a fine library and is a constant reader. He is not connected with any

Hosted by Google

of the fraternal organizations, though his father was a chapter Mason at Hornell. Mr. Gilchrist was married in Battle Creek, June 18, 1907, to Miss Mina Bell Harding, daughter of William and Eliza Harding. Her parents were natives of Devonshire, England, and came to America after the Civil war. Her father was a farmer at Maple Grove, Barry county, where his death occurred in the spring of 1911, and where his widow still lives. Mrs. Gilchrist was born at Maple Grove, but received her education in Battle Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Gilchrist have a happy home life, and are esteemed members of a large circle of friends.

HENRY HALLADAY. A resident of Battle Creek and vicinity during a period covering something more than seventy years, and for thirty years of this time living in the same locality, Cass and Kalamazoo streets, Henry Halladay is well known to the people of this city as a man, who as an extensive contractor and builder, assisted in forwarding the growth and development of the city. At the present time Mr. Halladay is living practically retired, although his active, energetic nature will not allow of complete resignation from business affairs and his alert mind is kept occupied in looking after his farm in Bedford township and his various real estate holdings in Battle Creek. Mr. Halladay was born four miles north of Grass Lake, in Jackson county, Michigan, October 23, 1840, and is a son of Austin D. and Johanna (Scidmore) Halladay.

Calvin Halladay, grandfather of Henry, came from the East, being a native of the Empire State, and located in Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1838. Subsequently, however, he acquired property in Bedford township, Calhoun county, and this locality is now known as the Halladay neighborhood, and the cemetery, in which grandfather Halladay and his wife were both buried, is known as Halladay Cemetery. The grandfather became a prominent and successful citizen and gave to each of his children eighty acres of well-improved and valuable land.

Austin D. Halladay was born near Seneca Lake, New York, February 21, 1812, and died in Battle Creek, Michigan, June 10, 1899. His wife was also born in the same neighborhood in New York, October 19, 1811, and passed away in Battle Creek, December 11, 1893. They came from Geneva, New York, in 1836, to Jackson county, Michigan, and in 1842 to his farm in Bedford township, Calhoun county, and settled on the farm, where they carried on farming, reared their children, and rounded out long and useful lives. The eighty-acre farm which was the original homestead of Austin D. Halladay is now in the possession of his son Henry. He and his worthy wife are buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Battle Creek. They were the parents of six children, four sons and two daughters, as follows: Reuben S., who died April 26, 1907, in Battle Creek; Catherine E. and Henry, residing in this city; Austin C., who died November 17, 1890; Abram, who married Mrs. Ella Andrus Helton. of Battle Creek, and has two children, Mabel now the wife of Maurice Willison, and Clarence M. of Battle Creek; and Mary Etta, who married Samuel D. Ball has one son, James of Battle Creek. Reuben S. was a veteran of the Civil war, during which he participated in the famous March to the Sea.

Henry Halladay received his education in the district schools of Halladay neighborhood, in Bedford township, which he attended during the winter months, his summers being spent in the work of the farm. As a young man, however, he decided to follow a business career in preference to the vocation of an agriculturist, and this determination he has followed out, having been a contractor and builder during nearly all of his life. In 1872 he formed a partnership with M. M. Lewis,

Hosted by Google

under the firm name of Halladay & Lewis, and this association continued twenty-two years, but in the spring of 1894 disposed of his interests to Mr. Lewis and since that time had carried on operations alone up to the year 1905, when he disposed of his holdings to Gillis & Snyder. Since that time he has devoted the greater part of his attention to looking after his farm in Bedford township, located two miles from the city line, and also owns seven houses in Battle Creek, in addition to his own residence, at No. 147 Kalamazoo street, which he erected some twenty years ago. He has lived on the corner of Kalamazoo and Cass streets for over thirty years, and is widely and favorably known throughout the city. He is a stockholder in the M. Rumely Company. In politics a Republican in national affairs, he uses his own judgment in local affairs, selecting his favorite candidate rather on account of his abilities than on account of party allegiance. During the administration of J. L. Whitcomb as mayor of Battle Creek, Mr. Halladay acted as alderman of the Third Ward for two years. His religious affiliation is with the Methodist Episcopal church.

On May 20, 1861, Mr. Halladay was united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. West, of Bedford township, and she died at Battle Creek, November 21, 1880, having been the mother of three children, namely: William H., who is deceased; Emma C., who married E. A. Kipp, has two children, John H. and Evalyn May, and resides on a part of the old farm in Bedford township; and Mrs. Clara May McCarthy, of this city. Mrs. McCarthy has three children: Carl, Agnes and Marion. All were born and educated in Battle Creek. On November 26, 1885, Mr. Halladay was married (second) to Miss Eva A. Belding, of Battle Creek, and they have one son: Walter Earl, now bookkeeper for M. Maas & Son of this city. He was born and educated in Battle Creek, attending the Michigan Normal and Business College, and is married and resides in this city.

Members of this old and honored family have distinguished themselves in various lines of endeavor, but none have left for their descendants a finer record than has Mr. Halladay,—a record without stain or blemish, and one which reflects credit upon his work and himself.

Capt. Almon E. Preston. A man who during more than sixty-six years of residence in Battle Creek has made his influence felt in promoting various movements for the betterment of municipal conditions, as well as being an important factor in business, political and social life, is Capt. Almon E. Preston, of No. 116 West street, who during the past ten years has lived retired. He was born in Orleans county, New York, July 15, 1832, the fifth in order of birth of the seven children of Ephraim and Lucy (Rogers) Preston.

Ephraim Preston was born April 11, 1797, in Chautauqua county, New York, a Quaker, of Quaker parentage. He was a millwright by trade, at which vocation he worked for many years, and in 1844 left the East and came to Michigan, settling first at Grass Lake, Jackson county. Two years later he came to the Quaker settlement at Battle Creek; in this city he did a great deal of work in putting in new water wheels and similar labor, and here died July 25, 1877. His wife was born December 18, 1801, either in Eastern New York or Connecticut, her parents being natives of the latter state, where the men in the family followed seafaring occupations. Her death occurred at Battle Creek, August 22, 1869, and both she and her husband were buried in Oak Hill Cemetery. They had a family of four daughters and three sons, and all are now deceased except Almon E. and a brother, the latter of

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



G. E. Arnold D.O.

Hosted by Google

whom is now eighty-four years of age and a resident of the Quaker town of Whittier, near Los Angeles, California.

Almon E. Preston received what educational advantages were obtainable in the little schools of Battle Creek when he was a lad, and as a youth worked as a carpenter and millwright with his father. In the fall of 1861 he enlisted for service in the Civil war in what was known as the Howland Engineers, a company raised here for signal purposes, but this organization was subsequently mustered out of the service, by order of Gen. Scofield, having been adjudged illegal. Later, in the fall of 1862, Mr. Preston raised Company L, Merrill's Horse, of which he served bravely and faithfully as captain until August, 1864, when, on account of disability, he received his honorable discharge at Little Rock, Arkansas. On his return to Battle Creek, Mr. Preston built a factory on South Jefferson street, for the manufacture of extension tables, and during the four years that followed employed many men, but subsequently sold his interests. In the meantime, with Capt. Rowell and a Mr. Brown, Capt. Preston was engaged in a furniture business on South Jefferson street, under the firm style of Preston & Rowell, with which he was identified four years. He then entered the employ of the Battle Creek Machinery Company, with which he remained for many years, and while in this company's service was elected supervisor of Battle Creek, his duties including the making of the city assessment, a task which he accomplished alone, although the same work now requires the labor of many persons. About 1870 Capt. Preston was sent to the State Legislature. While a member of the board of supervisors the new Court House was erected under his supervision, and while in the city council he introduced the resolution to bond the city for $50,000, for the building of the water works which are still owned by the city, he being a member of the committee on water supply and alderman of the Third Ward. He has also been a member of the board of education and in various ways has assisted in advancing the city's growth and development. In political matters he is independent, preferring to rely upon his own judgment in choosing the candidate best fitted for the office, and recognizing no party ties. During the last ten years he has lived retired, but since that time has invented a table slide, and numerous other inventions in wood working appliances and similar articles. During the past thirty-five years he has lived in the same residence at No. 116 West street. For some years he was identified with fraternal work, but advancing years have caused his retirement from various societies, and his only connection outside of his home is with the Independent Congregational church.

On April 8, 1855, Mr. Preston was married to Miss Abigail Emeline Freeman, of Victor, Ontario county, New York, born October 1, 1834, at that place, and married in Battle Creek. She died here April 10, 1905, having been the mother of eight children, as follows: Mrs. Adeline Charlotte Fisher, of Ontario county, New York, who died in March, 1897; Frank H., of Butte, Montana; May Preston, who is connected with the city treasurer's office in Battle Creek; Grace L., residing at Missoula, Montana; Mrs. E. W. A. Rowles, of Chicago, Illinois; Mrs. Herbert McCowen, also of Chicago, and two sons who died in infancy. All of these children who grew to maturity were educated in Battle Creek and graduated from the high school here.

DR. GEORGE E. ARNOLD is one of the best established representatives of his profession in this community, where he has been located since his graduation in 1903. He is recognized as one of the advancing and ablest exponents of osteopathy known in these parts, and he has

Hosted by Google

already built up a large and lucrative practice among the representative citizens of Albion. A native of Minnesota, Dr. Arnold was born in the vicinity of Rochester, July 26, 1868, the son of James and Mary Ann (Wheeling) Arnold, both natives of England and early settlers of Minnesota. The father was a farmer, to which calling he devoted the best years of his life, and he died in Minnesota, well advanced in years.

Dr. Arnold received his education in the public and high school, supplementing that early training by a course of study in the Wasioja, a Wesleyan Methodist Seminary, after which he went to Minneapolis and pursued a commercial course in Caton's College of business training, from which he was graduated. He then entered the Still College of Osteopathy at Des Moines, Iowa, from which he was graduated in 1903, and immediately thereafter he came to Albion, where he opened an office and began his practice. His office is located in the post office block, where he has six rooms, thoroughly fitted and equipped with every modern appliance known for the successful practice of his profession.

In addition to his studies as outlined above, Dr. Arnold was later graduated from the College of Electric Therepeutics at Lima, Ohio, and also from the Eugene Christian College of Applied Food Chemistry in New York City. He is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, also the State Association and is making rapid and worthy progress in the knowledge and practice of his profession.

Dr. Arnold is known as one of the valuable citizens of Albion, and as a man who is ambitious for the good of the community, being held in the high esteem of his many friends in and about Albion.

LUTELLUS L. SWANK. A long and successful career passed in following mercantile pursuits and in contributing materially to the welfare of whatever locality he has resided in, entitles Lutellus L. Swank to a position of prominence among his fellow men in Battle Creek, where he is known as a business man of integrity, ability and sound judgment. At the present time he is the proprietor of a flourishing grocery business at No. 43 Aldrich street, and his letterhead bears the sub-title "The North Side Grocer." Mr. Swank was born in New Haven, Pennsylvania, January 1, 1854, and is a son of Jacob and Sarah A. (Roody) Swank, the former born in Pennsylvania and the latter in New Jersey. They were married in Connelsville, Pennsylvania. The father was reared to the woolen manufacturing business, and continued to be engaged therein until late in life, when he opened a grocery at Belleville, Ohio, about five years prior to his death, which occurred about 1885, his wife surviving him about four years, and both were buried at Belleville. There were six children in the family. One child died in infancy; one youth died at the age of seventeen years; Mrs. Mary Sargent died in Belleville, Ohio, Mrs. Carrie Parsons is the wife of S. W. Parsons, of Greenville, Clarion county, Pennsylvania; John H., resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Lutellus L. is the youngest.

Lutellus L. Swank was educated in Pennsylvania, and resided there and was engaged in the wool manufacturing business until he was seventeen years of age, at which time he went to Elmira, New York, and there secured a position as clerk in the Rathburn House. After two years he went to Belleville, whence his father had removed in the meantime, and entered the grocery business in partnership with his father. Subsequently he went to Delaware, Ohio, where he worked in a woolen mill for a time, and later became a bookkeeper in a grist mill, where he worked for thirteen years. He then spent three years in the grocery

Hosted by Google

business at Delaware, and after three years, in 1898, came to Battle Creek and embarked in the grocery business at No. 231 West Main street, with L. D. Hobbs, under the firm style of Swank & Hobbs, but after seven years sold out to his partner, who was his son-in-law, and for nine months lived quietly, being retired from business activities. He was of too energetic a nature, however, to remain long away from the fascination of business life, and accordingly he embarked in business at the corner of Lincoln and Aldrich streets, which he conducted for five and one half years. In 1910 he erected his present cement, white-front block at No. 43 Aldrich street, where he has continued to carry on a fine business to the present time. His residence is at No. 55 North Kendall street. In political matters Mr. Swank is a Republican, but, although he has been prevailed upon to make the race for the office of alderman in his ward, has never sought public preferment, the activities connected with his business being of such a nature as to satisfy his ambitions. He belongs to Columbia Lodge No. 272 I. O. O. F., in which he has passed all the chairs and is past grand, and was for two years on the building committee which built the Odd Fellows State Home, at Jackson, Michigan. He has also been delegate to the Grand Lodge and the Grand Encampment on several occasions. Mr. Swank manifests an active interest in fraternal work, but his main interest is centered in his home. His wife is a well-known member and was an active worker in the Seventh Day Adventist Church, until twelve years ago when she lost her hearing.

On March 28, 1876, Mr. Swank was married to Miss Lillie J. Null, of Belleville, Ohio, daughter of John and Nancy A. (Toms) Null, Mrs. Swank and her parents being natives of Ohio and educated there. Two children were born to this union: Mrs. L. D. Hobbs, born in Belleville, Ohio, and educated at Delaware, who married L. D. Hobbs, a sketch of whose life appears on another page of this work; and Arthur L., born at Delaware, where he attended the public schools, subsequently taking a course in the Michigan Business and Normal College of Battle Creek, and now a resident of Detroit. The high esteem in which he is held by his fellow lodge members is testified to by a beautiful watch charm which was presented him, and he also has numerous friends in business life. It is a curious fact that Mr. Swank's birthday occurs on New Years Day, while that of his wife falls on Christmas.

ALMON O. JONES. It has been said that the beginning of civilization is the discovery of some useful arts, by which men acquire property, comforts or luxuries. The necessity or desire of preserving them leads to laws and social institutions. In reality, the origin, as well as the progress and improvement of civil society, is founded on mechanical and chemical inventions, and in reviewing the circumstances of the life of Almon O. Jones, it will be found that while acquiring business prominence and financial success, he has also contributed to the comfort and convenience of mankind. Almon O. Jones was born in the Province of Ontario, April 26, 1867, and is a son of Lorenzo and Hannah (Irvin) Jones, the former a native of Sunderland, Ontario, and the latter of Erie county, New York. Lorenzo Jones was born in 1830, and spent his life in agricultural pursuits, passing away at Sunderland, where he was buried, and where his widow still resides. They had a family of two daughters and four sons, of whom Almon O. was the youngest, and all of whom survive, although the subject of this sketch is the only resident of the United States.

Almon O. Jones secured his education in the common schools of Sunderland, Canada, and his first employment was in a heating business

Hosted by Google

in Toronto. About three years later he went to Buffalo, New York, where he remained a like period, removal then being made to Chicago, Illinois, where he made his home for eleven years, but at the same time traveled out of Milwaukee for five years in the employ of R. J. Schwab & Sons Company. For six years he traveled in the interests of the Boynton Furnace Company of Chicago, and then went to Toledo, Ohio, where he remained a year and bought an interest in the Toledo Furnace Company. It was while in Toledo that Mr. Jones conceived the idea and invented and patented what is known as the Jones Side Wall Warm Air Register, and in 1901 came to Battle Creek. Here he interested capital in his invention, and in February, 1902, the United States Register Company, Ltd., was formed and the manufacture of the product was begun in a small rented place on State street. The enterprise met with almost instant success and by 1904 it was necessary to secure other quarters to meet the rapidly increasing demand, the present building, to which there have been made several additions, being occupied at this time. The Jones Side Wall Register, which according to its manufacturers has done more to elevate the warm air heating business than any one improvement in the last decade, is sold to dealers and jobbers only, and in the United States alone the company has more than 8,000 customers, covering the country from Maine to California. Branch factories are located in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Kansas City, Missouri; Des Moines, Iowa; Toronto, Canada (the Jones Register Company); and Albany, New York, and the goods are manufactured in all these cities except Des Moines. The officers of the company are L. F. Moblo, chairman; James P. Hamilton, vice-chairman; Almon O. Jones, secretary-manager; J. G. Redner, treasurer; and Charles J. Pearson, director.

Mr. Jones has not confined his energies to this company, but has been connected with various other enterprises of an extensive nature. He is a director and a stock-holder in the Merchants Savings Bank of Battle Creek. Politically a Republican, he is at present a member of the board of public works, and has also shown a decided interest in fraternal matters, being a master Mason of Lodge No. 12, Battle Creek, a member of Moslem Temple, Shriners of Detroit, and a thirty-second degree Mason; past chancellor of Athol Lodge No. 278, Knights of Pythias, Chicago, and a member of the Grand Lodge of Michigan. He also holds membership in the Athelstan and Country Clubs of Battle Creek, with the members of which he is decidedly popular. He and Mrs. Jones attend the Congregational Church, and have been liberal in their support of its movements.

On June, 4, 1886, Mr. Jones was married to Miss Alice Wilson, of Napanee, Canada, who died in 1892, in Buffalo, New York, having been the mother of one child, Florence May, who resides with her father and was educated at the convent at Guelph, Ontario. On August 20, 1895, Mr. Jones married Christine MacBeth, of Battle Creek, who died October 20, 1907. Mr. Jones' third marriage took place May 12, 1909, when he was united with Genevieve Sheldon, who was born and educated in Battle Creek. The pleasant family residence is situated at No. 129 Maple street.

Mr. Jones is a man of strong mentality and marked independence in thought and action, progressive and public-spirited in attitude, and ever ready to lend his aid and influence in behalf of all worthy causes and projects which tend to progress and advancement. The family occupy a prominent place in the social life of Battle Creek, and the spacious and attractive home is a center of gracious and unreserved hospitality.

Hosted by Google

EDWARD AUSTIN. An essentially representative citizen and business man of the county which has been his home from his childhood days, Edward Austin is a scion of a family whose name has been worthily linked with the history of this county for nearly half a century, and the prestage of the name he has most admirably upheld through his activities along industrial lines and through his prominence and influence in public affairs. He has long been a prominent factor in the councils of the Democratic party in Michigan and besides serving in various minor offices he was incumbent of the position of county clerk of Calhoun county for three successive terms. He has contributed substantially to the civic and industrial advancement of his home county and his sterling character has given him secure vantage ground in popular confidence and esteem. He is essentially a man of affairs and his standing in the community is such as eminently to entitle him to special recognition in this history of the county which has been his home during virtually his entire life.

Edward Austin was born in the village of Canadice, Ontario county, New York, on the 8th of April, 1861, and is a son of Alanson W. and Mary A. (Stevens) Austin, the former a native of Orange county, New York, and the latter of Ontario county, that state, within the borders of which commonwealth the respective families were founded in the pioneer days. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Mary A. (Stevens) Austin was a valiant soldier in the Continental line in the war of the Revolution, and her father served as a soldier in the war of 1812. Alanson W. Austin was reared and educated in his native state and was a man of superior intellectuality and business ability. In his earlier manhood he followed the profession of civil engineering in the state of New York and there also he was engaged in teaching in the public schools during a period of sixteen years. He served as a member of the New York legislature, was county commissioner of schools in Ontario county, New York, and also served as county treasurer, besides having held minor offices of public trust. In 1865 he came with his family to Calhoun county, Michigan, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Battle Creek township, the same now constituting the site of Merrill Park, one of the attractive suburbs of Battle Creek. Mr. Austin not only became one of the representative exponents of the agricultural industry in the county, but as a man of fine ability and impregnable integrity he wielded much influence in public affairs of a local order, the while he ever measured up most fully to the metewand of popular approbation. He was a staunch and effective advocate of the principles and policies for which the Republican party stands organically sponsor and was an influential figure in its ranks in his home county. He was a most zealous member of the Presbyterian church, of which his widow also has long been a devout adherent, and he continued to reside on his old homestead place for more than a quarter of a century, until the time of his death, which there occurred in January, 1891. He was a man of exalted character and most generous impulses, kindly and helpful in his association with others, and his name will long be revered in the county which was his home for so many years. His wife who is eighty-five years of age at the time of this writing, in 1912, still resides in the old home, which is endeared to her by the hallowed memories of the past, and she is one of the most venerable pioneer women of the county,—one held in affectionate regard by all who have come within the sphere of her gentle influence. Alanson W. and Mary A. Austin became the parents of three sons,—Jesse S., who resides in Battle Creek, where he is engaged in farming; Marcus H., who died in Battle Creek

Hosted by Google

township, at the age of fifty-one years; and Edward, who is the youngest of the number and is the immediate subject of this review.

Edward Austin was about four years of age at the time of the family removal to Michigan and he was reared to maturity on the old home farm in Battle Creek township. After duly availing himself of the advantages of the public schools, including the Battle Creek high school, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1879, he was matriculated in the University of Michigan, in which famous institution but owing to illness was prevented from graduating with the class of 1883.

From his youth to the present time Mr. Austin has been actively identified with industrial interests in Calhoun county, and he is now the owner of one of the finest dairy farms in this section of the state, the same comprising 170 acres and being situated in Battle Creek township. This figures as the oldest dairy farm in the county, as it has been maintained as such, and principally under his personal supervision, since 1881. The most modern facilities are utilized on the farm and the sanitary provisions are of the best. From the place milk and cream are supplied for the Pullman dining car service on the Grand Trunk Railway. In addition to his fine farm Mr. Austin is the owner of valuable realty in the city of Battle Creek, including his attractive modern residence, which he erected in 1894 and which is located at 38 College avenue. He removed from his farm to the city in the year last mentioned, in order to afford his children the advantages of the local high school.

Mr. Austin has identified himself with other lines of progressive enterprise in his home county and has ever given his co-operation in the furtherance of measures projected for the general good of the community. He is manager of the Roman Cut Stone & Brick Company, one of the important industrial concerns of Battle Creek and one in which he is a large stockholder. Among other enterprises in which he is an interested principal is the Battle Creek Electric Light & Power Company.

In politics Mr. Austin has ever accorded unqualified allegiance to the Democratic party and for many years he has been a power in connection with party affairs in Michigan. He is now a member of the Democratic state central committee and has retained this position since 1904, being now one of the oldest members of that body in point of consecutive service. He has been a most zealous and effective worker in behalf of the principles and policies of his party and has been called upon to serve in various offices of public trust. He was virtually run the gamut of all official preferments in Battle Creek township, as he has served in every township office save that of supervisor, for which last he refused to become a candidate. In 1896 he was elected county clerk and he continued incumbent of this important office for three consecutive terms,—from 1897 to 1903,—during which he gave a most careful and acceptable administration. He has been a delegate to the state conventions of the Democratic party in Michigan and has twice served as delegate to its national conventions.

Mr. Austin and his family hold membership in the Presbyterian church, and he is affiliated with a number of the representative fraternal bodies in Battle Creek, including the following named Masonic organizations: Battle Creek Lodge, No. 12, Free & Accepted Masons; Battle Creek Chapter, No. 19, Royal Arch Masons; Council, No.——,Royal & Select Masters; and Marshall Commandery, No. 17, Knights Templars. He is also identified with the Knights of the Modern Maccabees and the Modern Woodmen of America. He was a charter member of the

Hosted by Google

Country Club, but is not actively identified with the same at the present time.

On the 4th of January, 1883, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Austin to Miss Elnora C. Fuller, who was born in Orange county, New York, and who was a child at the time of the family removal to Battle Creek, where she was reared and educated and where she was graduated in the high school as a member of the class of 1880. She is a daughter of the late William E. and Lavina (Miller) Fuller, who were numbered among the old and honored citizens of Battle Creek at the time of their death, the father having here been engaged in farming for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Austin have three children,—Ethel L., E. Clarke, and H. Marjorie. The elder daughter was graduated in the Battle Creek high school in 1904 and in Wells College, at Aurora, New York, as a member of the class of 1908. She was a successful and popular teacher in the public schools of Battle Creek until the time of her marriage, on the 20th of December, 1911, to Solon Wilhelm Webb, who was graduated in the department of mechanical engineering in the University of Michigan and who now holds a responsible position in the engineering department of the Advance Thresher Company, of Battle Creek. E. Clarke Austin was graduated in the Battle Creek high school in 1907, later completed a course in mining and engineering at the Colorado School of Mines, at Golden, Colorado. He now holds a position in the employ of the Durant-Doet Company, extensive carriage manufacturers in the city of Flint, Michigan. Miss H. Marjorie Austin was graduated in the local high school as a member of the class of 1910 and is now a member of the class of 1914 in Wells College, her sister's alma mater.

Archible E. MacGregor, M. D. Dr. MacGregor in his professional service has been prompted by a laudable ambition for advancement as well as by deep sympathy and humanitarian principles that urge him to put forth his best efforts in the alleviation of pain and suffering. He has gained recognition from the profession as one of its able representatives and the trust reposed in him by the public is indicated by the liberal patronage awarded him. He has been a resident of Battle Creek, Michigan, since September, 1903, and at present he is recognized as one of the most capable physicians in Calhoun county.

A native son of the Wolverine state, Dr. MacGregor was born in Saginaw, Michigan, on the 17th of February, 1877. He is a son of William P. MacGregor, who was born in Dumphries, Scotland, where he was reared to the age of nineteen years when he came to America alone. He was a lineal descendant of Rob Roy MacGregor. At the time of the inception of the Civil war he enlisted for service in the Union ranks at Saginaw, Michigan, becoming a member of Company E, Michigan Volunteer Infantry. He was a gallant soldier for a period of four years. As a business man he devoted his attention to lumbering operations and to farming. He was the owner of a fine estate of two hundred and forty acres in Tamouth township, Saginaw county, which he farmed until 1897, in which year he removed to Saginaw, residing in that city until his demise, in 1906. He was an unusually shrewd business man and gained a competency prior to his death. He married Isabelle Miller, who was born and reared in the state of New York and who is a daughter of Alexander Miller. The Miller family located in the vicinity of Flushing, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. MacGregor were married in the year 1866 and had been together for forty years when Mr. MacGregor was called to rest. Mrs. MacGregor survives her honored husband husband and still resides in Saginaw, where she is deeply beloved and esteemed by all with whom she has come in contact. Of the five children born to Mr. and Mrs. MacGregor, all are living, in 1912.

Hosted by Google

Dr. MacGregor was reared and educated in Saginaw county and he completed a high school course at Clio, after which he was engaged in teaching school for a period of four years. He then, in 1897, entered the Detroit Medical College, in which excellent institution he was graduated May 9, 1901. For one year thereafter he was house surgeon in the Detroit Sanitarium and September 1st, 1903, he came to Battle Creek, where he has since maintained his home and where he now controls an extensive and very lucrative patronage. He is local surgeon for the Grand Trunk Railway and is a member of and secretary of the Staff of Physicians at the Nichols Memorial Hospital at Battle Creek. In connection with the work of his profession he is a valued and appreciative member of the Calhoun County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

In politics Dr. MacGregor is a staunch advocate of the principles promulgated by the Republican party and fraternally he is affiliated with Lodge No. 279, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks; Battle Creek Lodge, No. 12, Free and Accepted Masons; and Battle Creek Commandery, No. 33, Knights Templars. He is also connected with the Athelstan Club of Battle Creek.

FREDERICK J. HEYSER. The career of Frederick J. Heyser is a noble illustration of what independence, self-faith and persistency can accomplish in America. He is a self-made man in the most significant sense of the word for no one helped him in a financial way and he is self-educated. As a young man he was strong, vigorous and self-reliant. He trusted in his own ability and did things single-handed and alone. To-day he stands supreme as a successful business man and a loyal and public-spirited citizen. Most of his attention has been devoted to work along mechanical lines but since 1906 he has been connected with the Gartner Baking Company at Battle Creek, of which concern he is secretary and treasurer.

Frederick J. Heyser was born at Marshall, Michigan, September 25, 1868, and he is a son of Phillip and Agnes (Schmidt) Heyser, both of whom were born in Germany, the former at Schifferstadt and the latter at Rosenberg. The parents came to America alone, while young, and they met and married at Detroit, Michigan. Phillip Heyser was an engineer on the Michigan Central Railroad in the antebellum days when the old strap rails and wood-burner engines were in use. During the war he was engineer on the Illinois Central lines and after the close of hostilities he again entered the service of the Michigan Central road. The family home was maintained at Marshall, Michigan, where the subject of this review was born. Phillip Heyser lost one of his eyes while on the road and after that accident he became a machinist in the locomotive department of the Michigan Central, removing from Marshall to Jackson when the Michigan Central Locomotive shops were removed to the latter place. Mr. Heyser died in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he went for an operation, and his demise occurred December 25, 1897. His cherished and devoted wife died January 30, 1899. Concerning the three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Heyser, John is a resident of Battle Creek and is mentioned elsewhere in this work; Elizabeth is the wife of John A. Weickgenart, of this city; and Frederick J. is the immediate subject of this review.

In the public schools of Jackson Frederick J. Heyser received his educational training. As a boy he learned the machinist's trade in the Michigan Central Locomotive shops at Jackson and he followed the work of that trade up to 1906. He came to Battle Creek for the first time when he was seventeen years of age and for a time worked in the shops

Hosted by Google

of the Union Manufacturing Company (now the Union Steam Pump Company). He returned to Jackson after a short sojourn in this city and completed his apprenticeship in the Michigan Central Locomotive car shops. In February, 1891, he went to Livingston, Montana, and there worked for the Northern Pacific Railroad Company until the fall of that year, when he returned to Battle Creek and commenced to work for the Advance Thresher Company, in the tool room. He was with the latter concern and with other companies during the ensuing three years. April 6, 1906, he became connected with the Gartner Baking Company, of which prominent concern he is now secretary and treasurer. This company was incorporated January 1, 1911, and Carl F. Gartner is president. The Gartner Baking Company, in addition to a fine line of cakes, cookies and pies, makes a specialty of Jersey Cream bread, which is in great demand. They also bake the widely renowned Buster Brown bread and the Holsum bread, turning out about forty-five thusand loaves of bread per week. Shipments are made to all points within a near radius of Battle Creek and some bread is sent even as far as Goshen and Middleburg, Indiana.

Mr. Heyser is also financially interested in the Jackson Baking Company, of Jackson, Michigan, being a director of that concern. He is affiliated with Battle Creek Lodge, No. 12, Free and Accepted Masons; Chapter, No. 19, Royal Arch Masons; and Battle Creek Commandery, No. 33, Knights Templars. He is likewise a valued member of the Elks, the Eagles and the Moose and is connected with the German Workmen's Benevolent Association, all of Battle Creek, and also with the U. C. T. and the I. C. A.

May 24, 1893, Mr. Heyser married Miss Ida Kummer, a daughter of John and Anna (Brummer) Kummer, the former of whom is deceased and the latter of whom resides in Jackson, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Heyser have four children,—Clarence F., Warren R., Mildred H. and Edith V., all of whom were born in Battle Creek.

ROLLIN D. ACKLEY. Distinguished as a business man of eminent qualification, a public-spirited citizen and representative of an honored pioneer family, the name of Rollin D. Ackley has for a number of years been closely interwoven with the history and development of Battle Creek. Mr. Ackley is superintendent of Battle Creek's great concern, the American Steam Pump Company and his ability and sound judgment have contributed in no indefinite fashion to the remarkable growth of the industry. It is, in truth, due to to his fine methods that its business has increased to its present great and ever-growing proportions.

Mr. Ackley was born in Convis township, Calhoun county, Michigan, August 23, 1870, the son of Charles H. and Mary Elizabeth Corwin (Morse) Ackley. The father was born in Shenango county, New York, August 25, 1836, the son of Anson Ackley and Olive (Holliday) Ackley, both natives of the Empire state. They were among Michigan's early pioneers, coming across country in 1838 and settling in Monroe county, where they resided for a short time before coming on to Calhoun county. Arrived within the boundaries of the county, Anson Ackley located in Convis township in 1839 and on this homestead farm he and his wife lived until their term of life was ended. They were good citizens in the highest sense of the term and stood for all that was best in the many-sided life of the community. Ackley Lake in Convis township was named after Anson Ackley, this body of water joining his farm on the north. Under his roof-tree were reared to maturity seven fine children, three being boys and four girls. Today, the father of the immediate subject, and his sister, Mrs. Sarah M. Fitzgerald of Battle Creek are the only survivors of the number.

Hosted by Google

Charles H. Ackley was educated in the district schools of Convis township, this county and also was a student at Olivet before it became a college, at that period in its history when it was known as Olivet Institute. Before he had finished its curriculum, however, it had become Olivet College. After finishing his education, Charles H. and his father, Anson Ackley, purchased a mill property in Barry county, Michigan, and this they conducted for a number of years in association. Charles H. later purchased a farm, a part of which was the old homestead in Convis township and he owned at one time one hundred and eighty-eight acres, but later made a deal with his brother and this left him with only one hundred and thirty-three which he subsequently sold. Mr. Ackley was a most successful farmer and farmed on wholly scientific lines, knowing just what the soil needed to produce big crops, and on only fair farm land raising fifty bushels of wheat to the acre and one hundred and forty bushels of ear corn on a similar amount of land. Instinctively he knew all the secrets of rotation of crops and fertilization. He resided on his country property from 1866 to 1885 and in the latter year removed to Bellevue, Michigan, where for a short time he engaged in the agricultural implement business and was subsequently on the road for five years for different firms in the implement line. In 1890 he came to Battle Creek to live and at the present time resides just outside the city limits on West Main street, where he owns some valuable real estate and does some interesting gardening, rather in the amateur spirit than otherwise. This estimable gentleman is a veteran of the Civil war, having served as private in Company M, of the Second Michigan Cavalry, which was organized from volunteers from this county under Captain Dickie, of Marshall, Michigan. He enlisted September 20, 1861, and served under his country's flag for three years and two months, being mustered out on October 20, 1864. He belongs to Farragut Post, No. 32, Grand Army of the Republic and takes great pleasure in renewing the comradeship of other days. In politics he is a Republican and when a resident of Convis township was for eight years highway commissioner. He belongs to the First Baptist church of this city in which he and the various members of his family are active workers. He took as his wife Miss Mary Elizabeth Corwin Morse, the date of their union being December 18, 1867, and its scene Walled Lake, Oakland county, Michigan. Her father was Samuel K. Morse, who was a third cousin of the celebrated Morse who invented the telegraph. The spirit of invention evidently ran in the blood, for her father, S. K. Morse, invented the modern hay loader which is used today, the devise being hitched to the back of the wagon and raking up and loading at the same time—a remarkable improvement over the old method. He died soon after inventing this and never received the credit which was due him. Mrs. Charles H. Ackley was born in Pontiac township, Oakland county, Michigan, and was educated there and in the Northville schools, and when a young woman she attended the State Normal school at Ypsilanti, Michigan. Her mother was Sarepta (Reed) Morse. There were eleven children in the family of which the subject is a member, six being boys and five girls. The eldest of these is Mrs. George A. Case, of Battle Creek, a half-sister of the others, as she is a child of Charles H. Ackley's first marriage. S. A. Ackley is general secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association of the state of Virginia, with headquarters at Richmond, that state. He is a native of this state and is a graduate of the Bellevue high school of Eaton county, Michigan. Rollin D., immediate subject, is the next in order of birth. Edith M., is a member of the parental household. Gertrude E. is the wife of P. R. Finlay, of Chicago, Illinois. Charles E., of Jackson, Michigan, is a graduate of the

Hosted by Google

Battle Creek high school and is now connected with the Y. M. C. A. of Jackson, Michigan. Grace M. died at the age of twenty years. Earl is in Battle Creek and Charles, Earnest and Carrie died in childhood. All were born in this county. The Ackley's were one of the first, if not the first family to locate in Convis township, and in those far-away pioneer days their first home was a log house in the woods. Like their descendants they were staunch and worthy people and they laid the paths of civilization straight and clean. The subject's grandmother, Sarepta Reed, was a missionary among the Indians in Oakland county, Michigan, and the redmen still believed in that day that they were lord of the forest.

Rollin D. Ackley was educated in the Bellevue high school, leaving the farm at the age of sixteen years to acquire his education. Previous to that time under the excellent tutelage of his father he had secured an insight into the many departments of the great basic industry. In March, 1889, he came to Battle Creek and started to work for the company with which he is today associated. At the beginning of his connection with the concern it was known as the Battle Creek Machinery Company, and the late Dorr Burnham, who is represented in detail on other pages of this work, was at the head of the same. He is one of those who have been longest connected with the company and at first proving faithful and efficient in small things was continually given more and more to do until he occupies his present important post. He acted as foreman from 1902 to 1911 and since January, 1911, has been superintendent. He is also one of the stock-holders of the company. When he started in the factory, three sizes of pumps were being made, namely: B. C. and D. After he began to have something to say the first "BB" pump, which is the fourth size was made. When he first entered the shops, there were somewhere in the world seven hundred and fifty pumps made by the concern and on January 18, 1912, there were 108,243 pumps, in different climes and localities. The output is of highest character and amply advertises itself.

Mr. Ackley is one of the most valued and useful of the members of the First Baptist church of Battle Creek. He is particularly well-known in Sunday school work and two years ago organized a men's Bible class, there being two members in the class at the start. He now has a class of seventy-five men, one of the largest men's Bible classes in all the state outside of Detroit and Grand Rapids. It is called the Baraca Bible Class and its leader is held in the greatest affection. He is a forceful and logical reasoner as well as an interesting one, capable of meeting the arguments of mature minds and he is doing a great work in this.

Mr. Ackley was happily married in 1892, Miss Flora A. Callender of Battle Creek, becoming his wife. This lady passed away in August, 1896, leaving motherless two children, namely: Allen Arthur, a graduate of the Battle Creek high school, class of 1912; and Ella Allene. Both are at home and both were born at Battle Creek. The subject was again married on November 3, 1898, in Centerville, St. Joseph county, Michigan, the lady to become his wife being Miss Laura E. Knittle, daughter of Charles and Susan Knittle. Her father died when she was only two years of age, but her mother survives and makes her home at Marcellus, Michigan. Mrs. Ackley was born and reared in the vicinity of Clyde, Ohio. The subject and his wife have three children, Ralph Emerson, Gladys Irene, and Charles Rollin. Two are deceased, Rollin Lester and Flora Emma, who died when three months of age. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Ackley is one of the hospitable ones of the city and is located at 30 North Wabash avenue.

Hosted by Google

THOMAS H. BUTCHER. It is a pleasure to enter record in this work concerning young men who have through their own efforts attained success in life and worked their own way to positions of business supremacy. Successful men must be live men in this age, bristling with activity, charged with energy, steadied by perseverance, and directed by principles of honesty and integrity. Thomas H. Butcher, of Battle Creek, who, in the development of the "Butcher Shop," and the "Walk Over Boot Shop," has made his name a familiar household word in the city, holds high rank as one his community's able business men. His career has been marked by consecutive endeavor and consecutive advancement, and he is recognized as a man of broad business capacity and executive force. Mr. Butcher was born in Battle Creek, February 28, 1871, and is a son of Judge John and Jane (Simpson) Butcher.

Judge John Butcher died in this city January 11, 1872, in the fifty-third year of his age. He was not one of the oldest residents at the time of his death, but had lived in the city a sufficient length of time to acquire an extensive acquaintance and to establish an excellent reputation. He was a native of England, having been born in the vicinity of London, and after crossing the Atlantic several times, settled in New York, where he was for a long time connected with the *Evening Post,* and by his superior business and social qualities greatly endeared himself, not only to his associates in that office, but in general to those in the newspaper circles of the metropolis. He removed to Battle Creek in 1869, having previously visited this section and made certain important investments here, from his confidence in the future development of this place and the region in the vicinity. In the spring of 1871 he was elected justice of the peace of Battle Creek, and most judiciously and satisfactorily discharged the duties pertaining to his office until interrupted by the illness which led to his death. He was extremely courteous and gentlemanly in his intercourse with his fellow men, and possessed great amiability of character. His views were liberal, and those needing aid or council were always recipients of his kindness and generosity. As he was a useful citizen in public, so were his virtues conspicuous in his private life, and in his death the city, his family and his friends sustained a severe loss. Judge Butcher was married in New York City to Miss Jane S. Butcher, who was born in the north of Ireland, and she survived him until January 25, 1899. They had two children: Jennie, who married Frank P Hickman, of Battle Creek; and Thomas H.

Thomas H. Butcher attended the public schools of his native city, and early in life displayed business ability and acumen of a high order. When twenty years of age he engaged in business with H. L. Kneeland, the firm of Butcher & Kneeland dealing in hats and furnishing goods in a little store at No. 20, East Main street. After doing business there for about ten years, they were forced to seek larger quarters to accommodate the rapidly-growing business, and went to No. 30 Main street, west, where Mr. Kneeland continued with Mr. Butcher until 1906. Since that time the firm has been known as the T. H. Butcher Company, the firm being incorporated in January, 1906, when Mr. Butcher admitted to partnership two of his clerks, who had been with him thirteen and sixteen years, respectively. Subsequently, when he opened the new shoe business, he admitted two more clerks, the new establishment, at No. 48 Main street, west, opening its doors to the buying public in 1911, when the firm was re-incorporated, although it still bears the same name. Associated with Mr. Butcher are C. L. Roberts, L. E. Millard, F. P. Hickman and David Black, the last-named gentleman having full charge of the boot store. These establishments have been developed

Hosted by Google

into the leading stores of their kind in the city, and have a large and representative patronage. Not the least of Mr. Butcher's abilities is his skill as an advertising man. Possessing a wealth of unique ideas and the ability to express them clearly and forcibly, he has devoted a large part of his time to keeping the name of his stores in the public eye; and this knack of happy expression has also been used to good advantage in displaying the goods in his establishments in a pleasing and convenient manner. Alive to modern methods, alert to take advantage of every innovation, enterprising and energetic in all things and at all times, he is justly rated one of Battle Creek's most progressive business men. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias, is a charter member of the Elks, and a director of the Athelstan Club. His home, at No. 41 Orchard avenue, is one in which refined courtesy is ever in evidence.

EARLE W. RANDALL. The name Randall has long been associated with the milling interests of Tekonsha, Michigan, and the history of the Tekonsha Mills is interwoven with that of southern Michigan. Quoting from a recent article on this subject:

"The early settlers were obliged to haul their wheat to Ypsilanti, a distance of eighty miles, over corduroy roads with ox teams, to the nearest flouring mill. "Going to mill" was an undertaking of no little importance and hazard, as it meant a week's absence from home and exposure to danger from wild beasts and lawless men. In the development of civilization, necessity seems to be the 'mother of invention.' The pioneers of the 'thirties realized the force of this truth, and among their first enterprises was the construction of water powers, saw mills and grist mills. The water power, upon which the Tekonsha Mills are situated, was developed in 1835 and 1836. The work was contributed, largely, by the early settlers.

"In 1850 Dr. Campbell Waldo, a native of Cayuga county, New York, built the main portion of the present grist mill, a three-story structure 36 x 50 feet in size, with basement. The mill was equipped with the old process machinery—three run of stone—two for flour and one for feed. During a period of forty years following its erection the mill enjoyed a liberal patronage and took rank among the leading establishments of the place. Such changes were made from time to time in the earlier system as the necessities of the case and the progress of the times demanded; but the old stone process was not discarded until 1889, when the mill was purchased by Arah H. and Arthur G. Randall, composing the firm of Randall Bros., predecessors of the present management.

"Randall Bros. made a general overhauling of the property, improving the water power, installing new wheels, and supplanting the stones by Nordyke & Marmon Roller Process. In 1893 the mill was enlarged by the erection of a feed department and the ownership changed hands, Randall Bros. giving place to A. H. Randall & Son. The reel bolting system was supplanted by the sifter system in 1899. During the year 1902, the mill was again enlarged by the addition of a buckwheat department.

"The present mill complete comprises, in its various departments, a flouring mill 36 x 50 feet in size, three stories high, with basement; feed mill, 20 x 48 feet in size, two stories high, with basement; buckwheat mill 20 x 20 feet in size, two stories high, with basement; engine room one story high and 14 x 28 feet in size; office, one story high, 11 x 14 feet in size; and a sack room, 10 x 11 feet in size; elevator; flour storage. Power is furnished by a 35-inch Victor Wheel, under eight foot head on flour run; a 44-inch special Leffel Wheel on feed and buckwheat,

Hosted by Google

supplemented by a 45-horsepower boiler with 35-horsepower engine. Steam is used only in case of emergency during excessive drouth. The mill is lighted by its own dynamos. * * * The amount of grain ground consists of 80,000 to 100,000 bushels of wheat; 60,000 to 80,000 bushels of feed; 10,000 to 20,000 bushels of buckwheat—mostly custom work."

Earle W. Randall, the present manager of these mills, was born in Tekonsha, Michigan, November 23, 1876, son of Arah Howard Randall and Ada A. (Tucker) Randall.

Arah H. Randall, also a native of Calhoun county, was born April 9, 1848, third child in the family of Harvey and Rhoda (Howard) Randall, pioneers of southern Michigan. Further mention of the Randall family will be found on another page of this work. Arah H. Randall was a graduate of Hillsdale College, with the class of 1873; was married that same year, June 24th, at Tekonsha, and for a time was principal of the schools at this place, being the first to hold that position after the erection of the brick schoolhouse. Not long after his marriage he engaged in merchandising with his brother, J. W. Randall, and later engaged in farming in Branch and Calhoun counties, following which he again spent some time in teaching school. In 1883, he purchased the Calhoun Mills at Homer, which he conducted until 1889. That year he sold out and joined his brother, Arthur G., in the purchase of the Tekonsha Mills, which they ran under the name of Randall Bros., and with which he was identified until the time of his death. About six o'clock in the morning, June 29, 1900, he went to the mill to start the machinery. An hour later when his son Earle entered the mill the machinery was not in operation. A search for the father resulted in finding him drowned in the flume, with a broken clavicle. His sudden death was the occasion of profound sorrow throughout the community. No man in the town had a larger circle of acquaintances, and few, if any, had more friends, than did Arah H. Randall. He was an enterprising citizen, a progressive business man, and a devoted husband and father. Politically, he was a stanch Republican and took an active interest in party affairs. He served as Township Clerk for several years, and for many years he filled the office of Supervisor, at Tekonsha, Albion and Homer. At the time of his death he was a member of the School Board of Tekonsha. About 1889 he was the Republican nominee for a seat in the State Legislature, and came within a few votes of being elected in a district strongly Democratic. He belonged to the Masonic Order at Homer, and was also a member of the A. O. U. W. In his family were five children, as follows: Ray A.; Daisy, who died in infancy; Earle W.; Edna M., and Eleanor, who died at the age of eighteen months. Ray A., born June 5, 1874, graduated from Ypsilanti State Normal College in 1897 and from the University of Michigan in 1900. In addition to his degree of B. S. from the University he was honored with the degree of M. Pd. from the Normal College. He served as principal of schools at Goshen, Indiana, and superintendent of schools at Plymouth, Indiana, from 1900 until 1911. In the spring of 1911 he resigned his position as superintendent at Plymouth, Indiana, to become a member of the firm of the Union City Milling Company, Union City, Michigan, R. A. and E. W. Randall, proprietors. He was married in 1897 to Miss Edith Waite, Dexter, Michigan, and they have one daughter, Eleanor. Mr. Randall's sister, Edna M., is a graduate of the Tekonsha school and is now the wife of Joseph E. Eldridge of Tekonsha.

Earle W. Randall is a graduate of the Homer schools and of the Commercial College of Ypsilanti. He first began work in his father's mill when he was fifteen, and after returning from college he again en-

Hosted by Google

tered the mill. In 1897 his father gave him an eighth interest in the business and soon afterward he purchased a similar interest which had been given to his brother. At his father's death he inherited a larger interest, and the management of the mill devolved upon him. The business is carried on under the name of the A. H. Randall Mill Company. Both by education and experience young Randall was fitted for the responsibilities that were thrust upon him, as miller and manager, at the untimely death of his father, and he is carrying on the business successfully.

April 18, 1900, Mr. Randall was married to Miss Kittie M. Batt, a native of Tekonsha, and a granddaughter of Samuel Batt, who at one time, in the sixties, was owner of the Tekonsha Mills. Mr. Randall's maternal grandfather, Thomas W. Tucker, was also owner of the mill at one time, and so the property is in possession of the descendants of two of the early proprietors. Mrs. Randall is a daughter of L. M. and Phoebe (Allan) Batt. Of this union there is one child, Tom R. Randall, born in Tekonsha, May 13, 1901.

Mr. Randall was made a Mason in 1898, and maintains membership in Washington Lodge, No. 7, F. and A. M.; Mrs. Randall is a member of the O. E. S., and in their organizations each has filled official position. Mr. Randall also has membership in Coldwater Lodge, B. P. O. E. Politically, he is a Republican. In 1899 he was elected a member of the Village council, and in 1901 he was re-elected. This office he resigned in 1902. He and his wife are included among the popular young people of the village.

Colonel Eugene L. Markey. The gentleman whose name stands at the head of this brief review well merits the designation of a "man who has done things," nor is the verb to be restricted to the past tense, for Mr. Markey is now at the very zenith of his activity and accomplishment. Identified with one of Michigan's most famous and extensive manufacturing concerns, The Duplex Printing Press Company, whose product is celebrated the world over, he occupies with the same a position second in importance only to that of the president and in the telling capacity of general sales manager he has made a remarkable imprint upon the enterprise, whose continual progress and high standing is largely credited to the experience, executive ability, tireless energy, engineering skill and genius in the broad combination and concentration of applicable forces possessed by him.

Colonel Markey is one of the commonwealth's native sons, his life record having begun in Pinckney, Livingston county, Michigan, March 9, 1866. He is of Irish descent and in him are apparent some of those excellent characteristics which are acknowledged as the birthright of the son of Erin. His parents were James and Catherine (Morgan) Markey, the former of whom was born in County Louth, Ireland, March 25, 1833. At the age of six years he crossed the Atlantic with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Markey, making the voyage on a sailing-vessel and after many days landing at Castle Garden, New York. The little family soon advanced to the northwest then opening up for settlement and located in Bunker Hill township, Ingham county, Michigan, where the father bought a large tract of land on which he and his children lived and farmed for many years, hewing out the trees from the forest primeval and building a log cabin in which they lived. Those first years were filled with the hardships encountered by the representative pioneer, but they were brave and determined and they met and conquered tasks at which Hercules might have dislocated his arm. The subject's father taught school during six years of his youth and later, on removing to

Hosted by Google

Pinckney, Michigan, engaged in mercantile business. He married Catherine Morgan of Unadilla township, Livingston county, on the ninth day of June, 1856, and on June 9, 1906, they celebrated their golden wedding, after a half century of ideal companionship. This event occurred at Port Huron, whence they had removed in 1897, at which time the subject's father was appointed supreme collector for the Knights of Maccabees of the World, and in that city he and his worthy wife made their home until his summons to the Undiscovered Country on November 9, 1911. For the last three years of his life he had lived retired after a life of signal usefulness and industry. This honored pioneer was survived by a widow, one daughter and seven sons. Mrs. Markey was the daughter of Peter Morgan and wife, also emigrants from Ireland, who settled in Unadilla township, Livingston county at a very early day. James Markey was one of the first six justices of the peace appointed in Michigan, Gov. Kingsley Bingham making the appointments. He was one of Port Huron's most prominent citizens and possessed numerous friends, the boundaries of Michigan by no means limiting them. The mother resides at the present time in Port Huron.

The children of the family of which Colonel Markey is a member are as follows: Hon. D. P. Markey, of Detroit, is supreme commander of the Knights of the Maccabees of the World, J. B. Markey is vice-president and general manager of the Illinois Refrigerator Company of Morrison, Illinois; Mrs. Floyd Reason, of Pinckney, Michigan, is now deceased; B. N. Markey, of Detroit, is connected with an automobile establishment, as one of the lads-in-waiting; the Colonel is next in order of nativity; Gus L. is chief clerk in the offices of the Knights of the Tented Maccabees in Detroit; Mrs. Albert Doe resides in Port Huron; and Louis K. is a traveling representative of the Winkley Company, manufacturers of brass goods, of Detroit. The four eldest were born in Bunker Hill township in the old log house and the others in Pinckney, Michigan, and all were educated in the Pinckney schools. Five out of the eight taught school, having received a preparatory course at Howell, Michigan, this being the scene of a country normal school which existed at that time.

Colonel Markey possessed what sometimes seems like the most powerful "Open Sesame" to success,—birth on a farm. Two years he engaged in farming, and then assisted his father in the agricultural implement business, this employment consuming some six years, and his headquarters being at Pinckney. In the meantime he taught school winters, as his father needed his assistance only during the summertime. Subsequent to that he was in St. Louis, Missouri, for six years as the southwestern agent of the Union School Furniture Company of Battle Creek. This great industry burned in 1891 with a loss of a quarter million dollars and throwing hundreds of men out of work. The executive officer of the Union School Furniture Company, Mr. I. L. Stone, is today the president of the Duplex Printing Press Company. The two industries have largely the same owners. Mr. Markey's identification with the younger concern dates from October, 1892, and shortly after he had charge of the exhibit of the Duplex product at the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893. Since 1906, he has been general sales manager, this position being the live wire of the whole business and second to the president's in activity.

On May 1, 1911, Colonel Markey opened the eastern office of the Duplex Company in the World's Building, New York City, where he remained six months and met with great success, doing $160,000 worth of business in four months. It is needless to add that his worth is recognized by the company.

Hosted by Google

The Colonel has marked social proclivities and also finds time in some way for other interests besides that of his office. He is a director of the Athelstan Club of this city and is active in politics, being chairman of the Democratic city committee of Battle Creek. He is essentially public-spirited and is a member of the Board of Public Works here. He was nominated by the Democrats of the Ninth District for senator, but declined the nomination. Later he was sent as delegate from the 3d congressional district to the national Democratic convention at Baltimore. He is one of the seven Michigan citizens who belong to the New York Athletic club. He is of genial and pleasing personality and is in great demand on all public occasions.

Colonel Markey was happily married on January 16, 1895, in Jackson, Michigan, his chosen lady being Alice A. White, daughter of James and Mary (Walsh) White, the former born in England, and the latter in Ireland. Mrs. Markey was born in Jackson county, Michigan, and educated at Notre Dame academy in South Bend, Indiana. Colonel and Mrs. Markey have one son, Eugene W., who is now a sophomore student in the Battle Creek High school. He was born in this city, December 10, 1895. The family are communicants of St. Philips Catholic church. They reside in a beautiful home at 54 Chestnut street, at the corner of Calhoun street, one of the finest residence districts.

DON F. HALL. The name of Don F. Hall is one that is emblematical of what may be accomplished by unrelaxing industry and unswerving integrity. A native son of Michigan, he was born at Quincy, Branch county, on September 1, 1851. His education was somewhat limited, that which he obtained having been acquired in the public schools of Coldwater, Michigan, for at the age of thirteen he left home and began at that time of life the active duties which are usually taken up by men at a much later age. He at once began to learn the blacksmith trade and after he had mastered it he located at Bedford, Michigan, where he followed his trade thirty-seven years. A conscientious workman and one strictly honest in his dealings, his sturdy industry, perseverance and close application brought him prosperity and what was still better, the high regard of all who formed his acquaintance. In 1910 he removed to Urbandale, where he bought ten acres, built a large two-story house, which he fitted out with modern furnishings, and also built a good shop. Already more business has come to him than he can do. Mr. Hall is emphatically self-made, each dollar that he has acquired being one that has represented his own toil, his own endeavor. He is well known in Calhoun county, where he is uniformly recognized as a man whose honor and self-respect are at all times his first consideration. In his political views he is a Republican.

He is a son of John C. Hall and Wealthy A. Williams Hall, the former of whom was born in Dutchess county, New York, and the latter in Pennsylvania. In 1886 these parents became residents of Coldwater, Michigan, where the father engaged in the livery business and was a well known business man there for a number of years. He was a Republican in politics and served as sheriff of Branch county several terms. Andrew Hall, the grandfather of Don F., removed from New York state to Coldwater, Michigan, where he followed his trade of wagon maker many years and where he died. The maternal grandfather of our subject was Emer Williams, a native of Pennsylvania who removed from his native state to Branch county, Michigan, and purchased a farm near Butler, on which he resided until his death.

In 1869, Mr. Hall wedded Nancy Jane, a daughter of Efevius Jones, who was born in New York but later in life became a pioneer in Nebraska and died there. Mr. and Mrs. Hall have no children.

Hosted by Google

CHARLES B. FURNER. Owning and occupying a beautiful home near Battle Creek, Charles B. Furner is one of the best known and most highly respected citizens of Calhoun county, which he has served in different official capacities, his trustworthiness, discretion, and force of character especially fitting him for positions of responsibility. A son of Stephen Furner, he was born in Phelps, New York, October 9, 1848, of English lineage.

His paternal grandfather, Rev. Stephen Furner, was born, reared and married in England. Emigrating from there to New York, he became somewhat noted as a local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal church, and continued a laborer in the Master's vineyard until his death.

Stephen Furner, a native of England, came with his parents to the United States when young, and thereafter was a resident of New York state, where he followed the trade of a shoemaker. He was active in public affairs, and a stanch adherent of the Republican party. The maiden name of his wife was Martha Sherburn, and she spent her entire life in the Empire state.

Soon after leaving school Charles B. Furner offered his services to his country, enlisting in Company C, Forty-fourth New York Volunteer Infantry. With his comrades he took part in various campaigns and engagements, including the Battle of the Wilderness, the skirmish at Laurel Hill, and the engagement at Spotsylvania, where on May 12, 1864, he was so severely wounded that he was forced to remain in the hospital for treatment until the following September. Rejoining the army, Mr. Furner was assigned to the One Hundred and Fortieth New York Volunteer Infantry, with which he was associated until the close of the conflict, and the second Hatchus fight, meeting the enemy at Five Forks, and being present at the surrender of Lee in Appomattox.

In 1874 Mr. Furner came with his family to Calhoun county, Michigan, and until 1892 followed his trade of a barber in Battle Creek. A man of much intelligence, public-spirited and progressive, he became prominent in city and county affairs, serving as a member of the city council two years, and as deputy sheriff four years. In 1903 Mr. Furner was elected sheriff of Calhoun county, and for four years rendered efficient and appreciative service to his fellow citizens.

Mr. Furner married, in May, 1871, Elnora Southerland, a daughter of Sherman Southerland, who came from New York, his native state, to Calhoun county, Michigan, bought land, and on the farm which he improved spent his remaining days, passing away March 2, 1898. Three children have been born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Furner, namely: Frank A., truant officer for Calhoun county, has two children, Catherine E. and Margaret, deceased; Carrie, who died at the age of fourteen months; and Mattie E., wife of George W. Hard, bookkeeper and general utility man in the Central National Bank of Battle Creek, who have one daughter Elnora A., aged six years.

Politically Mr. Furner is identified with the Republican ranks, and fraternally he is a member of Grand Army Lodge No. 131, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He also belongs to Farragut Post No. 32, Grand Army of the Republic. His family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is lending material assistance to the building of the new church edifice now being erected at Urbandale, this being the third structure of the kind which he has helped build.

WARD S. WEEKS. An industrious and prosperous carpenter of Calhoun county, and an esteemed resident of Level Park, is largely identified with the upbuilding of Battle Creek, where he does a large amount of work of importance. A son of the late William R. Weeks, he was

Hosted by Google

born on a farm in Athens township, Calhoun county, Michigan, August 24, 1872. His paternal grandfather, Shiverick Weeks, a native of New York state, was a farmer by occupation, and spent his last years in Indiana.

William R. Weeks was born and reared in New York state, his birth occurring in Steuben county, in August, 1834. From 1838 until his death, in July, 1910, he was a resident of Michigan, during his native career having been a successful tiller of the soil. He supported the principles of the Republican party at the polls as a usual thing, but he was a warm advocate of Prohibition, and the first man in the county to vote that ticket. He married Louisa M. Brimmer, a daughter of John W. Brimmer, who was born in Pennsylvania, came to Michigan when young, settling first on land in Calhoun county, but later removing to Manistee county, where his death occurred.

Educated in the district school of Athens township, Ward S. Weeks had a practical drilling in agriculture while young, and was there engaged in farming for several years, at the same time developing his mechanical talents by working some at the carpenter's trade. Moving to Battle Creek in 1908, Mr. Weeks was for awhile employed in teaming, but in 1910 built a nice home in Level Park, where he and his family now reside. He now devotes his time to carpentry, and as a builder has built up a large and profitable business, much of his work being in Battle Creek. Inheriting the political views of his father, Mr. Weeks is a sound Republican, with a decided leaning toward prohibition.

Mr. Weeks married, in 1898, Mattie Smith, who was left an orphan in childhood, and was adopted by H. S. Smith, by whom she was brought up as tenderly as if she had been his own daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Weeks have two children, namely: Iris Louise, born in 1908; and Doris May, born in 1911.

CHARLES J. SHUMAKER, who has for a number of years past been conducting a mercantile business, for the past three years at Level Park, has been a resident of Michigan all his life. He was born in Barry county, August 22, 1874, and is the son of Charles J. and Crisanna (Tungate) Shumaker. The father, a native of Wood county, was born in 1846, while the mother, was born in New York state. Charles J. Shumaker, Sr., is a retired farmer and lives in Urbandale. He has been especially successful in his business, and is now passing the declining years of his life in a quiet retirement. He is a veteran of the Civil war, and was a member of Company D, Seventeenth Michigan Infantry, and was three years in the service. He escaped without injury, but for a wound in the arm, received at the battle of Spottsylvania. Mr. Shumaker is a Republican, and has always supported the principles and doctrines of the party. The maternal grandfather of Charles S. Shumaker, Jr., was Benjamin Tungate, born in England, coming to Michigan in early life and settling on a farm, on which he passed his life.

As a boy, Charles Shumaker attended school at Johnstown, and when he had finished with the schools of that place went to Grand Rapids and took a thorough business course. He then worked on a farm for some little time, after which he entered upon the grocery business at Banfield, where he continued for eight years, with much success, and in 1909 he came to Level Park where he opened a general store, and in which he has done a nice business. He is the owner of his store property as well as his house, and the business he is here conducting is a most profitable and pleasing one.

Mr. Shumaker is a Republican in his political allegiance, but does not go in for politics to any extent. He is busily absorbed in the direct-

Hosted by Google

ing of his own affairs, and beyond the duties required of any good citizen, he does not venture. He is known to be one of the solid and representative men of his community, possessing a stability of character and a reputation for fair dealing that is second to none in this vicinity. He has a brother and sister living, the brother, Chauncey, in Florida, and the sister, Daisy Edmunds, living in Banfield, where she operates a store.

In 1900 Mr. Shumaker married Miss Ida Bolyen, daughter of Dana Bolyen of New York state. The family came to Michigan when Mrs. Shumaker was a mere child, and settled on a farm in Barry county; later they moved to Bedford, where Mr. Bolyen died in 1910. A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Shumaker, December 29, 1903, named Freda Marie.

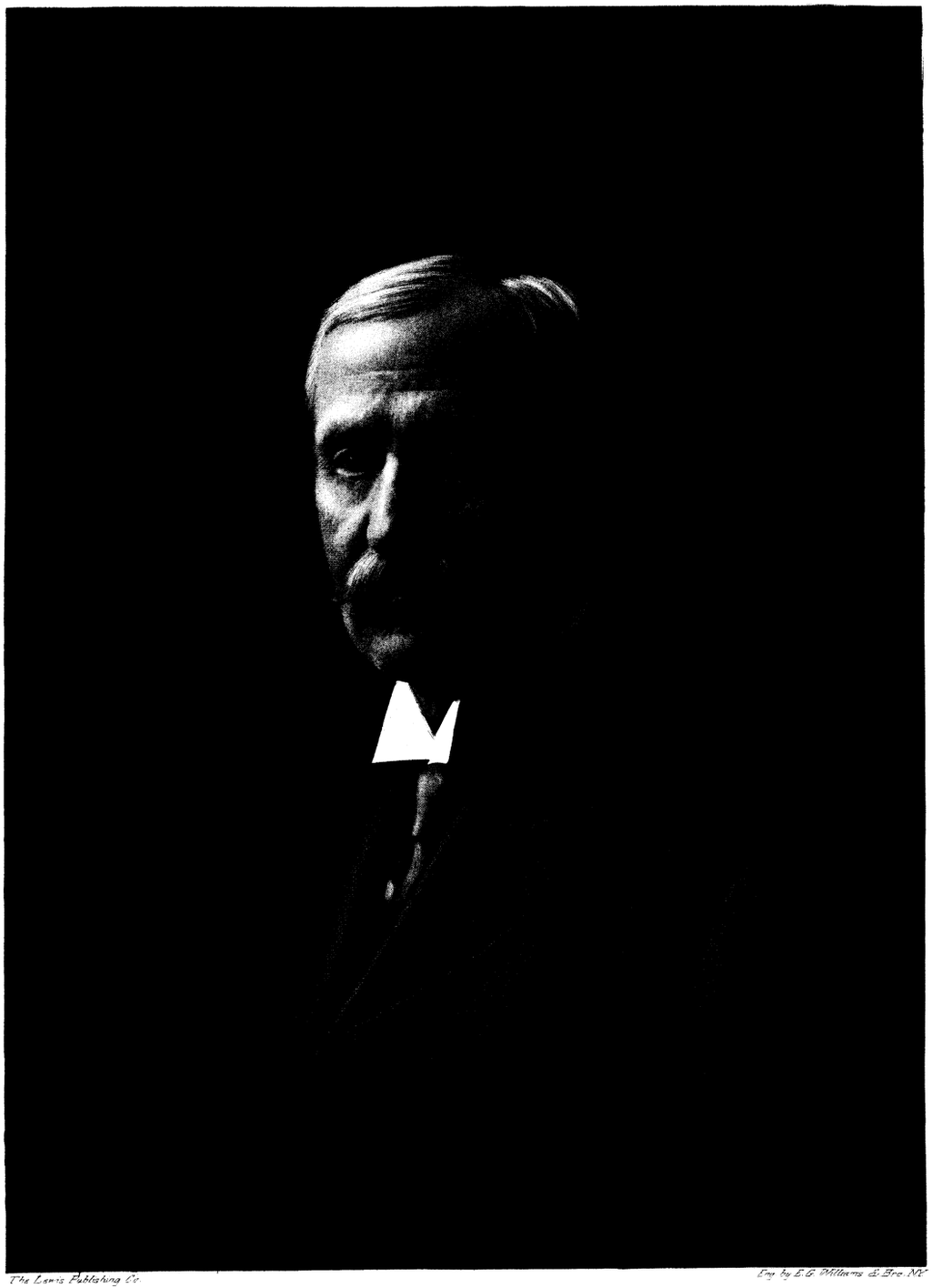
WILLIAM H. MASON. Keen-sighted, energetic and progressive, William H. Mason occupies a place of prominence and influence among the leading citizens of Battle Creek, and is actively identified with several of its more important industrial enterprises. Coming from substantial New England stock, he was born, November 8, 1842, at Battle Creek, where his parents were early settlers, coming here when the now thriving city was a mere hamlet.

His father, Alfred Mason, was born and reared in Vermont, where he learned the trade of a carriage and wagon maker. As a young man he listened to the call of the West, migrating from New England to Michigan, locating first in Kalamazoo county, where he wooed and won a bride. In 1834 he established himself as a wagon maker in Verona, Michigan, and in 1840 transferred his residence and business to Battle Creek, Calhoun county. Upon the organization of the manufacturing firm of Nichols & Shepard he sold out to them as did other wagon-shop owners of this part of the county. He continued a resident of Battle Creek, however, until his death, November, 1880. He married, in Kalamazoo county, Michigan, Charlotte Goodrich, who was born in Connecticut, of German ancestors, while his were English. She died in Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1845, leaving four children, as follows: Mrs. M. M. Hodskin, of Saginaw, Michigan, widow of Captain Hodskin; Margaret M. widow of Hiram Tobey, of Battle Creek; William H., the special subject of this brief biographical review; and Charles, deceased. The daughters were born in Verona, Michigan, but both sons were natives of Battle Creek, and the oldest daughter was graduated from the Battle Creek High School.

Leaving school at the outbreak of the Civil war, William H. Mason enlisted, April 21, 1861, for a period of three months, in Company C, Second Michigan Volunteer Infantry. Ere his term of enlistment had expired, on May 10, 1861, he re-enlisted for three years in the same company, in which he served bravely as a private until mustered out, in May, 1864. The following four years he was variously employed, and in 1868 embarked in business on his own account as senior member of the newly organized firm of Mason & Rathburn, lumber manufacturers and dealers, with plant at the corner of McCamley and West Main streets. The firm, by the admission of a partner, became Mason, Rathburn & Company, and remained as such until January, 1899, when the business was sold to the firm of Rathburn & Kraft.

In 1881 Mr. Mason became identified with the Advance Thresher Company of Battle Creek, of which he was first a director, and later for three years serving as its president, and of which, since the presidency of Mr. Ammi W. Wright, he has been a director. Mr. Mason

Hosted by Google



The Lewis Publishing Co.

Eng. by E.G. Williams & Bro. N.Y.

Wm. H. Mason

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

is also officially connected with various other enterprises of note, being a director of the American Steam Pump Company, of Battle Creek; of the Citizens Electric Company, and president of the Michigan Carton Company, of Battle Creek; a director of the Oconee Timber Company, of South Carolina; and president of the Alma Oil Company, of San Francisco, California.

Politically Mr. Mason is a prominent member of the Republican party, and has represented both the second and the third wards in the Battle Creek City Council. He has served as a member of the local Board of Education, and under the administration of President Harrison was postmaster of the city. He is now an active and interested member of the Commission which is revising a new charter for Battle Creek. Mr. Mason is a member of the Country Club, and of the Athelstan Club, of which he was president for a year. He likewise belongs to Farragut Post, No. 32, Grand Army of the Republic.

On October 26, 1870, in Montgomery county, New York, Mr. Mason was united in marriage with Tryphena J. Kneeland, who was born and educated in that county, being a daughter of the late Ozias H. Kneeland, who, after the death of his wife, came to Michigan, and spent his last years at the home of his son, E. O. Kneeland, in Battle Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Mason have one child, Cora Belle, who attended the Battle Creek High School, and afterwards attended Alma College, and a young ladies' school in London, Canada. She is now the wife of Harry H. Flint, of Chicago, Illinois. And they have one child, Barbara Mason Flint. In 1912 Mr. Mason was unanimously elected president of the Chamber of Commerce.

EUGENE A. BOWEN. A well-to-do agriculturist of Calhoun county, living quite near Battle Creek, E. A. Bowen is a fine representative of the self-made men of Michigan, his present prosperity being entirely due to his persevering industry, keen foresight, and wise management. He was born, May 26, 1843, in Erie county, New York, a son of John Bowen, and is of Scotch ancestry on the paternal side, the immigrant ancestor of the Bowen family having come from Scotland to this country. His grandfather, Jonathan Bowen, a life-long farmer of New York, married Vashti Wheeler.

John Bowen spent his entire life in the Empire state, his birth occurring in 1822, and his death in 1888. He was of great enterprise, progressive for his time, being engaged not only in general farming, but being especially successful as an orchardist and fruit grower. He married Susan Lapham, whose father, Gideon Lapham, was born in North Adams, Massachusetts, and as a young man moved to Western New York, where he improved a good farm, on which he resided the remainder of his life.

Completing his early education in the academy at East Aurora, New York, E. A. Bowen became familiar with agricultural pursuits while working with his father, having remained beneath the parental roof-tree until attaining his majority. Coming to Michigan in 1865, he worked by the month for two years, and then began farming on shares. Accumulating some money while thus employed, he purchased the farm which he now occupies in 1870, erected a substantial house and outbuildings, and as a general farmer has been very fortunate in his operations, his farm of eighty acres being well tilled, and highly productive. Mr. Bowen raises some stock, and makes to some extent a specialty of dairying, an industry which he finds both pleasant and profitable. He is a Republican in politics, and has served on the town board, and for years has been a justice of the peace.

Hosted by Google

In 1868 Mr. Bowen was united in marriage with Eliza Stringham, who was born and educated in Calhoun county. Her father, the late Elijah Stringham, came from New York state to Calhoun county in 1838, locating just north of Urbanville. The journey through the pathless woods from Detroit was made with an ox team, and the tract of land which he took up from the government was covered with a heavy growth of timber. He labored with untiring zeal in his efforts to clear the land, and on the farm which he redeemed from the forest he spent his remaining days, dying in 1901, at the age of seventy-five years, his birth having occurred in 1826. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bowen, namely: Susan, living with her parents; Carrie, wife of George Jones, a farmer in LeRoy township; May; Kate; Ethel; and Lynne, who runs the home farm.

Dr. William E. Dockry. In presenting to the readers of this volume the biography of Dr. William E. Dockry we are perpetuating the life record of one of the Boys of the Blue who in 1861, a youth of eighteen years, promptly responded to the Union's call for defense and continued a brave and loyal soldier in service until the end of the war. Forty of the fifty years that have passed since then have been spent by Dr. Dockry as a medical practitioner in Michigan, being now located at Urbandale, Calhoun county.

Born in Canada, June 6, 1842, he went with his parents to Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1849, and there spent his youth on a farm. In 1861, when the cloud of civil war hung threateningly over our land, he was a student in an academy preparing for college but there was no hesitancy as to where his duty lay. Enlisting on April 22, 1861, at Akron, Ohio, in Company G, Nineteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry for three months' service, he left the state with his regiment in June. Arriving at Parkersburg, West Virginia on June 23, this regiment was made a part of Gen. Rosecrans' brigade and on June 25 moved by rail to Clarksburg, where it became a part of Gen. McClellan's "Provisional Army of West Virginia." On the 29th it left Clarksburg with the advance and made its first real march, reaching Buckhannon on July 2, and Roaring Creek, July 7, encamping in front of the fortified Confederate position at Rich Mountain. It distinguished itself in the fight at Rich Mountain by the cool and handsome manner in which it held its post against a flank attack. In August, 1861, Dr. Dockry returned to his Ohio home and in September following reenlisted in the service, this time in Company I, Twenty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. With his regiment, which formed a part of the Army of the Potomac, he fought at the battle of Winchester in 1862 and soon afterward was taken sick, his illness requiring him to remain in the hospital until 1863. As soon as able to do so he returned to the service and with his regiment participated in the battle of Lookout Mountain and in all the engagements of Sherman's army in the Atlanta campaign, following him to the sea and up through the Carolinas to Goldsboro. Dr. Dockry was the first man of his regiment to enter Savannah, Georgia. He was mustered out on July 22, 1865. Returning to Ohio, he resumed his interrupted studies and completed a medical course at Western Reserve college, Cleveland, Ohio, from which institution he was graduated February 18, 1867. He began the practice of his profession in Trumbull county, Ohio, but seven months later removed to Ashtabula county of that state and from thence to Perry, Lake county, Ohio, where he followed his profession until 1873. From there he came to Pentwater, Michigan, where he engaged in medical practice until 1885, when he removed to Big Rapids, Michigan, and was engaged in professional service there twenty years. In

Hosted by Google

1905 he assumed business interests in St. Louis, Missouri, but continued to keep in close touch with his profession, and on October 20, 1911, took up his residence in Urbandale, Calhoun county, Michigan, where he once more resumed the practice of medicine. In each of his locations he built up a large practice and at Urbandale where he has but recently located he has already secured a very satisfactory clientele. He owns a comfortable home there.

Dr. Dockry comes from Colonial ancestry on his mother's side and by paternal descent is of English lineage. Daniel Dockry, his father, was born in the North of Ireland, the son of an Englishman who had removed to the Emerald Isle but shortly returned to his native England and spent the remainder of his life there. Daniel Dockry came to Canada and there was married to Mary Landon. Her father Solomon Landon was a native of Canada but was the son of a Connecticut Tory whose loyalty to the mother country caused him to be driven from his colonial home into Canada. The parents of Dr. Dockry came to the United States in 1849 and settled in Trumbull county, Ohio, where the father followed farming until his death in 1897. He was a shoemaker by trade but did not follow that occupation after his removal to Ohio. Politically he was a Republican, and both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mary Landon Dockry died in 1852.

On March 24, 1867, Dr. Dockry wedded Orlyntha Amelia, a daughter of Richard Partridge. Mr. Partridge, who died in 1888, was a native of Ohio and was by occupation a carpenter and mechanic. He also served in the Civil war. Dr. and Mrs. Dockry have three children: Alta, who married Rev. Charles H. Palmatier, now a retired Methodist minister residing on a farm in Barry county, Michigan; Ella, who became the wife of William H. Verity and resides in St. Louis, Missouri; and William E. Milo, a resident of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mrs. Dockry is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Dr. Dockry has been affiliated with the Masonic order since 1865. He is a member of Big Rapids lodge No. 171, Free and Accepted Masons, of Big Rapids chapter No. 52, Royal Arch Masons, and of the Knights Templar at Battle Creek. He served as master of his local blue lodge many years and has also served as high priest of his chapter. The days of 1861-65 are commemorated by his membership in Farragut Post G. A. R. at Battle Creek, Michigan. In politics he is an ardent Republican.

Though Dr. Dockry has been a resident of this county but a short period he is of that type of citizen that any community gladly welcomes and values, and it is with pleasure that the publishers of this volume preserve in this form a brief life record of a brave veteran of the Civil war and a citizen that has given Michigan the best years of a long and useful life.

ORIN J. WRIGHT. The old philosopher's statement that we are sure to get the better of fortune if we do but grapple with her is as true today as when it was first uttered nearly 2000 years ago and has been verified in the life story of every successful man from that time to the present. Among the young men of Calhoun county, Michigan, who with undaunted courage have entered boldly upon the conquest for success in life is Orin J. Wright, now well established in a general mercantile business at Urbandale. Indomitable energy and strength of character have been the foundation of his accomplishment.

A son of Amos and Josephine (Crawford) Wright, he was born June 28, 1882, in the state of Nebraska, whither his parents had removed from Michigan, their journey thence having been made overland in a wagon. The father was a native of Canada, while the mother was born in New

Hosted by Google

York, a daughter of John Crawford who removed from his native state of New York to Oceana county, Michigan, and there became a very successful farmer. After fifteen years' residence in Nebraska the family returned to Michigan, where Amos Wright took up farming in Barry county. His death while his son Orin was still of tender years made the latter early dependent upon his own resources. The schooling of our subject was concluded in the fifth grade of the Battle Creek public schools, further study being precluded at that time by the necessity of his beginning life's struggle for himself and for the care of his mother. At first he worked as a farm hand; then later he took employment as a common laborer in Battle Creek. Following that, he worked six years in a wholesale grocery there and then served the same firm four years as a traveling salesman. In 1911 he entered into business independently when he purchased the general store of W. H. Bradley at Urbandale. He had gained a valuable training in the school of experience and was therefore well qualified to take charge of this business and make it a profitable venture. This he has done, for though he has been proprietor of the store but a short time he controls a splendid country trade and one that is growing. Mr. Wright is a young man and what he has already accomplished without other capital than his own energy and ability presages for him a still more successful future.

On June 26, 1907, Mr. Wright was united in marriage to Glenneda, daughter of Adam Wolf, the latter of whom is an extensive and very successful farmer and one of the remaining early settlers of Barry county, Michigan. Mr. Wright is a Republican in political faith and fraternally is affiliated with Battle Creek Lodge No. 419 Free and Accepted Masons. Mrs. Wright is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Both are young people of pleasant ways and stand high in the estimation of all admitted to their acquaintance.

BURR L. WEEKS, of Battle Creek township, Calhoun county, is one of the many energetic and enterprising men extensively engaged in agricultural pursuits in this section of the state, and having brought to his calling good business methods and sound judgment, his labors have been crowned with success. A son of Darwin J. Weeks, he was born, March 5, 1870, in Atlas township, Calhoun county, coming on the paternal side of the house of thrifty Welsh stock.

His grandfather, Shiverick Weeks, was for many years engaged in farming in New York state, but later removed to Indiana, where he was similarly employed until his death.

Born in the Empire state, Darwin J. Weeks was young when his parents removed to Indiana. He came to Michigan soon after it was admitted to statehood, locating in Calhoun county in 1838. Purchasing a tract of wild land in Athens township, he set to work with a will to clear space enough on which to erect a small house, and in the years that followed cleared and improved a good farm, and was there an honored and respected resident until his death in 1906. He married Martha Willard, who was born in Kalamazoo county, Michigan, a daughter of one of the original settlers of that part of the state, one David M. Willard, who was born and educated in Massachusetts, and as a young man made his way to Michigan, journeying from Detroit to Kalamazoo county with ox-teams, following a blazed trail the greater part of the way. Darwin J. Weeks was a stanch Republican in politics, and his wife was a worthy member of the Baptist church.

One of a family of eight children Burr L. Weeks received his youthful education in the district schools, later taking a business course at Battle Creek. Being reared to agricultural pursuits, he naturally adopted

Hosted by Google

farming as his occupation, and when ready to establish a home of his own purchased a farm in Bedford township, and for ten years managed it successfully. In 1899 Mr. Weeks moved to his present home, and has since been diligent in its improvement, each year adding to its attractiveness and value. His own farm contains one hundred and twenty acres of rich and fertile land, and in addition to caring for that he also manages his wife's homestead property, on which he and his family reside.

Mr. Weeks married May 1, 1897, Eunie Conklin, daughter of James E. and Rhoda A. (Loder) Conklin, and they have one son, Raymond Weeks. James E. Conklin came to Calhoun county at an early period of its settlement, and to the original tract of land which he bought from the government, made by purchase, substantial additions, at the time of his death was owner of five hundred acres of fine and highly productive land. In his political relations Mr. Weeks is a steadfast Republican, and in his fraternal affiliations he is a Knight of Pythias.

CHARLES E. BRADLEY, who has valuable farming interests in Bedford township near Battle Creek, Michigan, but is now a retired resident of Urbandale, is a native son of Michigan, born in Charleston, Kalamazoo county, on December 31, 1843. Harmon Bradley, his father, was a pioneer in Michigan and became a prominent and well known man in Calhoun county, which he represented with marked credit in the Michigan state legislature in 1879 as a Republican. Born in Fairfax county, Vermont, on November 30, 1817, of English lineage, Harmon Bradley received a common school education in New York, whither his parents had removed from Vermont, and then in 1835, while still in his teens, came to Michigan and settled in Marshall. The first winter he hired out for $13 per month and in the meantime located 40 acres of land seven miles south of Ypsilanti. The following two years were spent in clearing land for Dr. James P. Greaves and two more years were spent in similar work for Sidney S. Alcott. Then on December 26, 1839, he married Miss Mary Palmer and together they set up a home in the woods. He had added sixty acres to the original forty acres he had located and all of this he afterward sold for $55 per acre. He next purchased three hundred acres near Battle Creek for $40 per acre and lived on this homestead a quarter of a century. His wife died on February 8, 1870, and in 1884 he removed to Battle Creek, where he passed away on March 30, 1902. Eight children were born to these parents. Demmond and Betsey (Dimond) Bradley, the parents of Harmon, moved from Vermont to New York in 1823 and there the former died in 1827.

Charles E. Bradley received a common school education, though two brothers, George D. and Albert Bradley, obtained collegiate training, both being graduates of Kalamazoo College. After his schooling was over he began work on his father's farm and finally bought two hundred acres of the original homestead. Besides the general lines of agriculture he gave considerable attention to the raising of cattle, sheep and hogs and for ten years conducted a dairy. In 1904 Mr. Bradley retired from the farm and on October 19 took up his residence in Urbandale, where he has since resided.

In 1869 Miss Martha E. Sterrett, of Erie county, Pennsylvania, became his wife and helpmeet, their acquaintance having begun while she was visiting friends in Michigan. She died on October 30, 1881, leaving three children living: Willard H., who resides with his father and is engaged in business in Battle Creek; George D., who has charge of the home farm; and Floyd J., who holds a clerical position in a coal office in Battle Creek. In 1883 Mr. Bradley took as his second wife Miss

Hosted by Google

Eunice McAlester, whose father George W. McAlester was a farmer resident of Calhoun county for many years.

Mr. Bradley is a Republican in politics and has held different of the township offices. At present he is treasurer of the school board at Urbandale and held the same position fourteen years with the school board at his former home in Bedford township. For fifty-one years he has been a devout and consistent member of the Baptist church, his present membership being in the First Baptist Church of Battle Creek, and at all times his life has been an example of the right living he advocates. He is a citizen of the best type and well deserves a place among the representative men of Calhoun county.

WILLIAM H. FINLAY. No class of men contribute so largely and certainly none so substantially to any community as the thorough-going business men—the men of affairs and dollars. One of the prominent and trust-worthy native born business men and agriculturists of Calhoun county, Michigan, is William H. Finlay, who has had considerable experience in other sections of our country but has found his native county the pleasantest place of all and not at all lacking in business opportunity for the man who can recognize it and has the courage to attempt. He is a worthy scion of two of Michigan's early pioneers, Ebenezer Finlay and James Conklin, both of whom became well known and successful men but have now passed away.

William H. Finlay was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, May 9, 1856. His father was Ebenezer Finlay and his mother Sarah J. Conklin. Ebenezer Finlay came from New York, the state of his birth, to Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1838, took up farming there and followed it until in 1850 when he joined the gold seekers in California, making the journey overland with a mule team. After two successful years there he returned to Michigan and bought two store properties in Battle Creek, in one of which he opened a grocery business which he conducted a number of years, his prudence, energy and foresight enabling him to amass an unusual competency. His family was reared on a farm which he had bought in Calhoun county but in his later years he took up his residence in the city of Battle Creek and lived there until his death, leaving at that time an estate valued at $70,000. The father of Ebenezer was a farmer by occupation and was a native of New York, but resided in Michigan at the time of his death. Sarah J. Conklin Finlay was the daughter of James Conklin, an early settler here who was a cooper by trade but followed farming during the most of his years in Michigan. During his earlier residence in this county he went to Detroit to get his corn ground.

William H. Finlay completed his education through the eighth grade at Battle Creek, Michigan. He then began life on the farm in Calhoun county but at the age of nineteen went to California, where he spent the following nine years. Returning to Michigan in 1884, he was married to Olive L. Fuller, whose father was a well known and highly respected farmer of Calhoun county, an immigrant from New York state. That same year Mr. Finlay removed to the state of Washington, where he took up land from the government, improved it and also engaged in the cattle business. He remained there seven years and was quite successful. At the end of that period he returned to Calhoun county and bought a farm of 160 acres in Bedford township. This he operated a number of years; then he platted all of it. On the portion he retained, eight acres, he built a modern home and this has since remained the family residence. The platted portion now forms the town of Level Park. Mr. Finlay also owns considerable property

Hosted by Google

in the city of Battle Creek, is interested in the Battle Creek Building & Loan Association, of which he is a director, and is also interested in the Michigan Real Estate Company, which builds houses. Mr. Finlay has been very successful in his business undertakings and ranks as one of the most substantial men of his community. In politics he is a Republican.

Two daughters have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Finlay: Ethel, now Mrs. Herbert D. Evans, and Hazel, now a senior in Albion College, Albion, Michigan (1912). The family are valued communicants of the Methodist Episcopal church, Battle Creek.

HIRAM STAPLES. In the life story of the late Hiram Staples, the well beloved, versatile and masterful citizen of Battle Creek whose death, November, 28, 1904, closed a career of signal usefulness, the element of tragedy had a potential part. His early struggles for a foothold in the world of effort were hard and discouraging, and he passed through the dangers of the great Civil war only to meet, while at the very acme of his usefulness, with an accident that threatened to blight his life, and which would have caused one made of less courageous stuff to give up all effort, thoroughly disheartened. Yet through all the vicissitudes of life, Mr. Staples displayed a cheerful spirit of hopefulness, a firm belief in his ability to overcome obstacles, and a determination to win, that finally brought him to his goal, raising him to a position of prominence in the business world of his adopted community and in the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens. Mr. Staples was born at Temple, Franklin county, Maine, in March, 1841, and was a son of Alvah and Lydia C. (Burbank) Staples, and a grandson of George Staples, who came from England and settled in Franklin county, Maine, during the early days.

Alvah Staples was possessed of considerable natural mechanical ability, and conducted a blacksmith shop on his farm, doing a great deal of work among his neighbors when all such labor was performed by hand. After his children had neared ages of maturity, he removed to East Douglas, Worcester county, Massachusetts, in order to give them an opportunity to obtain work in the manufactories of that place, and was also identified with various business interests there making a specialty of manufacturing edged tools. Later he removed to New Hampshire, and died in Nashua, where his wife also passed away.

One of a family of thirteen children, Hiram Staples received his early education in the schools of Massachusetts, and later attended the institutions of New Hampshire, having the opportunity of spending about three months out of each year in study. Although his early advantages were somewhat limited, he later became a man of much general learning, gaining knowledge through experience, observation and reading. From the time he was twelve years of age until he completed his schooling, Mr. Staples spent his time in learning the trade of making edged tools, and at the age of seventeen years, when his studies were completed, he had mastered his trade and was in the forging department. By the time he was twenty years of age he was an acknowledged expert in his line in that department. On leaving Massachusetts, Mr. Staples went to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he worked for a short time prior to the Civil war, then returning to East Douglas, where he obtained a good position with the Douglas Axe Company. When President Lincoln issued his first call for troops to serve three years, he put aside all business and personal considerations and enlisted in Company A, Twenty-fifth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, a company which was given the post of honor at the right of the regiment, the brigade, the division and the army corps. The first service of Mr. Staples' regiment

Hosted by Google

was in the Burnside expedition, and was present at the bombardment of Roanoke Island and the two days' fight, on the 7th and 8th of February, 1862. He also participated in the engagement at New Berne, North Carolina, March 14, 1862, when the Union troops recaptured the guns that had been taken from them at Bull Run; the battle of Kingston, North Carolina, December 14th; Whitehall, December 16th; Goldsboro, December 18th, and aided in the burning of the bridge near Kingston, March 16, 1863. He was also at the battle of Deep Gully, March 13th, at Gunswamp, May 22d, where an effort was made to surround the Union troops by the Confederates, and it was at this place that Mr. Staples was promoted to a position in the signal corps of the United States army, his duty being to carry dispatches, for which he was furnished with the fastest horses that the corps could boast, and in addition assisted in displaying signal lights which conveyed to other divisions of the army important knowledge of military positions and movements. He was stationed at various places, doing important service in behalf of his country until the close of his enlistment. After his discharge he was detained for some time and prevented from returning to his home, because of a quarantine on account of yellow fever, and while thus patiently waiting at New Berne, North Carolina, for his papers, his discharge papers were captured, with other mail, by the Confederates in the Dismal Swamp. The Southerners were discovered, however, and on being surprised, threw the mail into a fire and much of it was burned. Mr. Staples' papers, however, although some what charred and shrivelled, were of parchment, and were thus recovered, and ever afterward were among his most highly-prized belongings, as mementos of his army experiences. He was known as a brave and faithful soldier, ready at all times to do his duty, and by his cheerful spirit and manly qualities winning the admiration and friendship of his comrades and the respect of his officers.

On the completion of his army services, Mr. Staples returned to Massachusetts and again took up work in the Douglas Axe factory, where he remained for some years, but subsequently went to New Albany, Indiana, to accept a position with the Western Axe and Edged Tool Company. When that firm suspended business, he entered the plow works of B. F. Avery & Company, at Louisville, Kentucky, where he occupied a splendid position, but while there met with a terrible accident, falling into hot steel which nearly burned his arm off. Because of this misfortune he was obliged to give up future work at his trade, and as this had been his only means of livelihood it seemed as though his life was a failure. However, during the years that had passed, he had spent his spare time profitably, reading and studying, and as a result of his investigation and experiments, combined with his mechanical skill, he brought out a number of inventions, securing his first patent July 27, 1869. This was an improved composition for concrete walks and roofing, and while recovering from his injuries and not yet able to walk, he received an offer from the American Edged Tool Company to superintend the placing of the machinery in a plant for the manufacture of edged tools to be erected at Battle Creek. This offer was accepted, and in 1870 Mr. Staples came to this city, where he was associated with the same company during all of its existence here. He made his home in this city from that time on, and for the next quarter of a century was actively engaged in producing sidewalks, building the first concrete walks in the county and furnishing employment to a large number of mechanics and laborers. He finally sold out to Fay B. Green, in 1895, and retired from active business dealings, although death found him still in the harness, he being suddenly called while superintending some work at his

Hosted by Google

gravel pits. He was a great lover of home and seldom let himself become interested in public matters or fraternal work, although while in Massachusetts he belonged to Solomon Temple Lodge, of the Masonic fraternity, at Uxbridge. As an intelligent man and reader he was always well versed in the current events of the day, and while his strong self-reliance caused him to adhere with tenacity to those views which his judgment and investigation led him to adopt, his sincerity was undoubted and his integrity unquestioned. Holding the warmest place in the hearts of those who knew him best, whether at the home fireside or in the circle of friendship, his life and character were a tower of strength, and his memory shall be a benediction to those who loved him so well.

In 1872 Mr. Staples was married to Mrs. Louisa Ann (Byers) Huff, widow of the late George Huff, and she resides in the home built by Mr. Staples soon after settling here, at No. 172 Jefferson avenue, South, in front of which still stand the stately elms that were planted by his hands. Mrs. Staples is a lady of culture and refinement and an excellent business woman, and in addition to the old home place owns considerable other real estate in Battle Creek, where she is a general favorite in social circles.

CARL F. GARTNER. If those who claim that fortune has favored certain individuals above others will but investigate the cause of success and failure, it will be found that the former is largely due to the improvement of opportunity, the latter to the neglect of it. Fortunate environments encompass nearly every man at some stage of his career, but the strong man and the successful man is he who realizes that the proper moment has come, that the present and not the future holds his opportunity. The man who makes use of the Now and not the To Be is the one who passes on the highway of life others who started out ahead of him and reaches the goal of prosperity in advance of them. It is this quality in Carl F. Gartner that has made him a leader in the business world and won him an enviable name in connection with financial affairs at Battle Creek, which place has long represented his home.

In the vicinity of Heidelberg, Germany, November 24, 1870, occurred the birth of Carl F. Gartner, who is a son of Julius and Elizabeth (Ruebel) Gartner. A small town near Heidelberg has been the home of the family through many generations and there the subject of this review was reared to the age of fourteen years. He attended common school until his fourteenth year, when he immigrated, alone, to America, coming here without friends or influence and carving a name for himself in the business world. He came at once to Battle Creek and obtained a position as a farm boy on the Betterly farm. He knew nothing of the English language but during the two years spent on the farm he became fairly conversant in that tongue. In 1886 he settled in Battle Creek, where he served an apprenticeship at the baker's trade, being thus engaged until he had reached his legal majority when he embarked in business on his own account. His first concern consisted of a small place, where he did his baking at night and himself acted as salesman during the daytime. He began with very limited stock but he possessed energy and ability and soon worked his way upword, gradually increasing the scope of his business until its growth now seems almost phenomenal. He was first located at No. 93 South Jefferson avenue, where he remained for eight years, at the expiration of which he purchased a lot and erected a business block at No. 78 South Jefferson avenue, this being a two-story brick building, twenty-five feet by seventy-eight in lateral dimensions. He also built a large building on Hamblin avenue which adjoins the Jefferson

Hosted by Google

avenue structure at the rear and which is of brick, being ninety-five feet by eighty-eight in lateral dimensions. The latter building is used as a bake shop and is equipped with all the latest baking devices, including patent ovens. It enjoys the distinction of being the only thoroughly equipped bake shop in the city. In the rear is a barn in which the wagons and teams are sheltered. In addition to bread, cookies and cakes, the Gartner Baking Company handles flour in wholesale quantities, supplying many of the stores in addition to what is required in the bakery. The business was incorporated in January, 1911, with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars, under the name of the Gartner Baking Company. Mr. Gartner is president of the concern and Fred J. Heyser, mentioned elsewhere in this volume, is secretary and treasurer.

An average of thirty-five thousand loaves of bread are turned out weekly and a specialty is made of Jersey Cream bread, other brands being the Buster Brown and Holsum bread. Shipments are made daily to neighboring towns and bread is sent as far as Goshen and Middlebury, Indiana. Mr. Gartner is vice president of the Jackson Baking Company, at Jackson, Michigan, which was opened up for business July 22, 1910. Mr. Gartner started in business at Battle Creek October 13, 1891, with absolutely no capital except energy and a determination to make a success. In addition to his bakery interests he is a stockholder in the Union Steam Pump Company, the Battle Creek Brewing Company and the Advance Pump & Compressor Company, all prominent business concerns in this city.

Mr. Gartner is a valued and appreciative member of the German Workingmen's Society, the Eagles and the Elks of Battle Creek, and the City Club and the Country Club of Jackson, Michigan. In their religious faith he and his wife are members of the German Evangelical church, to whose charities and good works they are most liberal contributors.

November 25, 1891, Mr. Gartner was united in marriage to Miss Emma Rother, of Louisville, Kentucky. They are the parents of one daughter, Edna Caroline, and she is attending school in Battle Creek. In addition to a residence at No. 78 South Jefferson street a country home is maintained at Franklin Beach, on Gull Lake.

HILAND GEORGE BUTLER. Battle Creek is world-famous for more than one reason, but primarily, perhaps, for its industries, whose product is utilized in every country and every clime. One of the most celebrated of these industries is the Hygienic Food Company, makers of Mapl-Flake, a delectable article known to every well appointed breakfast table. The president of the Mapl-Flake Company is the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this paragraph, an Iowan by circumstance of birth, but of family long established in this country, his forbears having been distinguished factors in the earlier history of New England, that cradle of so much of our national history. In the ancestral record are numbered soldiers and patriots, men of prominence in several walks of life and at least one governor, and the subject is as loyal an American as any of them. He is a man of remarkable executive ability, who has made realities out of a number of vast ideas; not, indeed, that his sky has always been set with stars of victory, for he has known adversity in her most unpleasant mood and has conquered her.

Hiland George Butler was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, July 30, 1864. His father was George Ide Butler and his mother's name previous to her marriage was Lentha Ames Lockwood, and Waterbury,

Hosted by Google

Vermont was the birthplace of both. The family was of English origin, and Ezra Butler, the great-grandfather of the subject, was governor of the Green Mountain state. He was born in Lancaster, Worcester county, Massachusetts, on September 24, 1763. In his seventh year his father, Asaph Butler, moved to West Windsor, Vermont. When in his seventeenth year Ezra Butler was for six months a soldier of the Revolution. In March, 1785, he came to Waterbury, Vermont, with his brother Asaph, next older than himself, and in June of the same year he was married to Miss Tryphena Diggins. He was the first prominent settler in Waterbury, and, though a young man, took a prominent part in all public movements. He built the first frame house in the town. To him was issued the warrant to call the freemen of Waterbury, in 1790, to organize the town, and at that meeting he was chosen town clerk. From that time his official life was a remarkable one. From this humble beginning he went through almost every grade to the chief magistracy of the state. The following table will show in outline the main features of his career:

1794 to 1805 (except 1798) he represented the town in General Assembly.

1807 chosen as a representative and member of the council acting part of the time in one body and part in the other.

1808 again elected to the council, and with the exception of 1813 and 1814 when he was in congress, was annually reelected to this body until 1826.

1803 elected assistant judge of Chittenden county court, Waterbury, at that time belonging to that county, and reelected the two following years.

1806 elected chief judge of Chittenden county court, and held the office until 1811.

1811 Washington county was organized and Judge Butler was elected chief judge of that county court, and, excepting the two years when in congress, 1813, 1814 and 1818, held that office until 1825.

1806 member of the Council of Censors.

1822 member of Constitutional convention.

1804 and again in 1820 a presidential elector.

1812 member of congress on the Republican general ticket.

1826 elected governor of the state, and was reelected the following year, each time without an organized opposition.

Immediately after his second election, he declined to run again, and at the close of that term retired from official life, having been in office without interruption from the organization of the town in 1790, often holding two or more important offices at the same time.

In addition to these civil and political offices he was on the committee to fix the site for the first state house in Montpelier; was a commissioner in 1807 to help determine the place and plan for the state prison, and subsequently a commissioner to locate the state arsenal. From 1810 to 1816 he was a trustee of the University of Vermont. There was hardly an office of honor or trust in the gift of the people or legislature that he did not fill. In this respect the career of Governor Butler from an unlettered pioneer—(his schooling was limited to six months in his boyhood)—from a hunter and trapper up through almost every grade of office to the chief magistracy of the state, is a most remarkable one, and has few parallels in history.

Mr. Butler had a religious as well as a political history. His was the first conversion in Waterbury. About a year after he was baptized and united with the Baptist church in Bolton. At the organization of the Baptist church in Waterbury in about 1801, Mr. Butler

Hosted by Google

was ordained as its pastor, and amid the many civil offices he filled, he continued to discharge the duties of this office until within a few years of his death, and that without salary or remuneration. He died July 12, 1838, in the seventy-fifth year of his age.

These are the main facts in the life of the distinguished ancestor of Hiland George Butler. The many public honors and positions of trust that came to him were won by his sterling traits of character. The public knew that whatever trust might be reposed in him was safe, and that whatever was given to him to do would be done, and so they always found it.

George Ide Butler, the father of Hiland G., was a very prominent Seventh Day Adventist and was president of that denomination for a period of fifteen years, which is the longest any man ever held that office. He followed Elder James White to the office. He left his native state at an early day and came to Iowa, where he resided until the subject was a youth of eighteen years of age. He then removed to Michigan, where he was elected president of the general conference of Seventh Day Adventists. He was a man of signal ability and has been prominent in several connections, having been president of the old Review and Herald Publishing Company and also president of the Southern Publishing Company, of Nashville, Tennessee, which latter office he retained up to two years ago. He is now seventy-eight years of age and lives retired at Bowling Green, Florida, where he has an orange grove of fifteen acres, and engages in the raising of both oranges and pecans. He has resided in Florida for the past twenty-three years. The admirable wife and mother was called to her eternal rest in 1900, and is interred in that state. There were three children in the family: Annie, the only daughter, died when fourteen years of age. The other two were twin brothers, William Pitt Butler and Hiland George Butler of this review. William Pitt Butler now lives at Berwyn, a suburb of Chicago, Illinois, and is manager and owner of a one-third interest in the Johnson Fare Box Company and the Johnson Coin Counter Company, of Chicago, Illinois. He was at one time employed in the offices of the old Review and Herald Publishing Company, but has been a citizen of Chicago for the past twenty years. These twin brothers were educated in the public schools of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and both learned practical occupations, Highland George being a book edge gilder by trade and having learned the work when he was employed by the Review and Herald Publishing Company, at which time he had the contract for gilding all the books they published. He worked for them about six years and then went to Florida, on account of the failing health of his mother, with whom he wished to be in companionship in her last days. In that southern state he lived for three years, and for a part of the time was engaged in the orange business. However, the cold winter of 1903-4 not only killed the oranges, but blasted all his hopes of getting rich in this field of endeavor. To quote his own phraseology, he "went broke on the proposition," and wishing to part with the fickle south, he sent his wife back home on a passenger train, this consuming all his spare cash, and he himself returned by freight, deadheading his way all the distance back from Florida. For a time in his younger days he "braked" on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, and he knew just about how to "handle the boys" who remained officially ignorant of his presence.

After returning from the "Sunny South," thus ingloriously by freight, Mr. Butler began looking about him for an honest means of livelihood, his courage by no means impaired by the buffetings of fortune. He secured a position with the old Sanitarium Food Company

Hosted by Google

as bookkeeper, and finally developed into manager of the concern and continued in the interest of the Kellogg people until about three years ago. While in their employ he went to England with friends of Dr. J. H. Kellogg, who is his brother-in-law. A Sanitarium Food Company had been started by friends of the Kellogg people in that country and had not proved a success and Mr. Butler was sent to the scene for the purpose of inculcating the element of success into its affairs, and also to straighten them out. He succeeded in this purpose beyond the most sanguine expectations and the British company has ever since been a money maker. In Battle Creek he has had charge of the Sanitarium Food Company and the Sanitas Nut Food Company, and from these two was developed the Toasted Corn Flakes Company, of which Mr. Butler may be termed the father. He superintended the building of the Kellogg Toasted Corn Flakes plant in this city, its owner, W. K. Kellogg, also being his brother-in-law, and until quite recently he was superintendent of the same. He selected its site and made every plan in the way of buildings, etc., to the minutest detail and the world knows that the concern has proved a success. He made the first toasted corn flakes ever made. Until October, 1909, he was a stockholder and member of the Toasted Corn Flakes Company, but at the date mentioned he sold out his interests here. He had become inoculated with the desire for the west and he went to the Bitter Root Valley in Montana, where he made himself the possessor of one of the finest ranches in all the west, this consisting of one thousand acres and from its superb orchards he sold $10,000 worth of apples in one season. He also maintained a splendid dairy, one of the finest and best conducted in all the Golden West. He was very fond of this section of this glorious country of ours, but the climate proved inimical to his wife's health, and in December, 1910, not without regret he sold his ranch for $75,000.

In June, 1911, Mr. Butler returned to Battle Creek and is now connected with the Hygienic Food Company, one of the oldest companies of its kind in the business. It had, however, been allowed to run down and Mr. Butler's energy and enterprise proved a wonderful asset in its fortunes. He bought up considerable of the stock and last fall was elected to the presidency of the company, the other officers being H. R. Scoville, of Ypsilanti, Michigan, vice president; Ralph H. Holmes, of Battle Creek, treasurer; and Fred Wells, of Battle Creek, secretary. That delightful food, Mapl-Flake, is manufactured from both corn and wheat and the business is growing by leaps and bounds, Mapl-Flake proving in its excellence its own best recommendation. With Mr. Butler's brains and genius for telling but conservative advertising, its future is assured.

Mr. Butler is a Mason. He takes no small amount of interest in public affairs and was chairman of the committee of the first anti-saloon league, the same putting Battle Creek on a dry basis for the years 1909 and 1910.

On February 3, 1887, Mr. Butler was happily married, the young woman who became his wife and the mistress of his household being Clara Belle Kellogg, daughter of the late John Preston Kellogg, one of Battle Creek's most prominent citizens, and a sister of Dr. J. H. Kellogg, now head of the Battle Creek Sanitorium and a man of national reputation. Mrs. Butler was born and reared here and received her education in the old Battle Creek College. She is a woman of charming personality and has proved an ideal life companion, as her husband says "she is one of the best women and most satisfactory companions in all the world." This year they will celebrate their silver wedding anniversary. They have four children. William Pitt Butler,

Hosted by Google

the eldest son, is associated with his father in the Hygienic Food Company; Mary Adelaide is now in school for girls at Haddonfield, New Jersey; Ethel Priscilla is a junior student in the Battle Creek High school and is one of the most proficient in athletics of the young women of this city; the youngest member of the family, George Ide, is also in school here. William Pitt is married, his wife previous to her marriage having been Ethel Reliance Hott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George S. Hott, of 170 Post avenue, this city. The engagement of these popular young people was announced April 20, 1909, and the bride-elect went to Montana, where she met her future husband and was married. They have a small son, William Pitt, born near Stevensville, in the Bitter Root Valley, Montana, the date of his birth being November 28, 1910, and according to his grandfather, the amount of noise he makes would indicate that he is destined to be a great orator in his day.

Mr. Butler takes the usual interest of the well balanced man in outdoor sports and particularly enjoys ice skating, in which he indulges with his children. In fact, he is willing to challenge any lot of men of his age to a race on the ice at any time, and considers the question of having a small pair of skates made for his year-old grandson, who enjoys a warm place in his grandfather's heart. The family are all strict vegetarians and have been such for years. The Butler family at present reside in a rented property at 125 Garrison avenue, but will erect a residence of their own within a short time. They are popular as well as important members of society and are renowned for their hospitality and kindliness. The plant of the Hygienic Food Company is situated at 150 McCamly street, south.

JOSEPH W. GETHING, M. D. In no profession is there more constant progress than in that of medicine and surgery, thousands of the finest minds the world has produced making it their one aim and ambition to discover more effectual methods for the alleviation of suffering, some more potent weapon for the conflict with disease, some clever device for repairing the damaged human mechanism. Ever and anon the world hears with mingled wonder and thanksgiving of a new conquest of disease and disaster which a few years ago would have been placed within the field of the impossible. To keep in touch with these discoveries means constant alertness, and while there may be in many quarters great indolence in keeping pace with modern thought, the highest type of physician believes it no less than a crime not to be master of the latest devices of science. To this type belongs Dr. Joseph W. Gething, his constant thought and endeavor being devoted to the profession of which he is so admirable an exponent.

Dr. Gething is a native of this locality, his birth having occurred in Battle Creek township, March 29, 1872. He is the son of Thomas and Ellen (Morgan) Gething, both natives of England. Upon their immigration to this country with their parents they settled in New York, and in the year 1854 came on to Michigan, and made location in Battle Creek township. Thomas Gething, father of the Doctor, was a farmer by occupation and owned a good farm of two hundred and forty acres in Battle Creek township. He died in 1875 (May 24), at the early age of forty-two years, but the mother survives and makes her home at 540 West Main street, her home being the residence adjoining that of the subject. The Doctor and his brother, C. M. Gething, still own the old homestead farm upon which they were born and which is dear to them with many associations.

Dr. Gething was thus left fatherless at the age of three years, be-

Hosted by Google

ing the youngest of three sons. The eldest, William Gething, Jr. resides on a farm in Battle Creek township, but C. M. Gething has wandered farther afield and is now located at Vancouver, British Columbia. He is a mining expert and holds a government position. The subject, sooner than he might otherwise have done, found himself thrown upon his own resources. He received his preliminary education in the district schools and later became a student in the Battle Creek High school from which he was graduated. He then entered the Adventist College of this city and took a course preparatory to university work. Having chosen as his own the medical profession he entered the Rush Medical College, connected with the University of Chicago and was graduated from the same in June, 1901, and subsequent to that took a course in the Cook County Hospital for the space of one year. He inaugurated his practice in Elkhorn, Wisconsin, in 1902, and remained there for two years, following that in 1904 removing to Battle Creek, Michigan, where he has practiced ever since. Dr. Gething's brother, C. M., is also a graduate of the Adventist College of this city, of the class of 1895. The subject has proved remarkably successful and has built up a lucrative practice.

In the matter of politics the subject of this brief review is an enthusiastic supporter of the policies and principles of the grand old party. Fraternally, he belongs to the Elks. He is connected with the various professional bodies,—the Calhoun Medical Society, the Michigan State and the American Medical Association, and an active worker in all.

On April 18, 1905, Dr. Gething was happily married to Lydia E. Phillips, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Phillips, pioneer settlers of this locality, now deceased. The father was a farmer by occupation. Mrs. Gething was reared and educated here and is a graduate of the Battle Creek High school of the class of 1899. She subsequently attended the Ypsilanti Normal school for one year. Both the Doctor and his wife are members of the St. Thomas Episcopal church and aligned with the best interests of the community, of which they are generally recognized as estimable members.

Foster Martin Metcalf. It has been said that the beginning of civilization is the discovery of some useful arts, by which men acquire property, comforts or luxuries. The necessity or desire of preserving them leads to laws and social institutions. In reality the origin, as well as the progress and improvement of civil society is founded on mechanical and chemical inventions, and in reviewing the circumstances of the life of Foster Martin Metcalf, of Battle Creek, there is a pleasure in looking upon and contemplating an active and useful career passed for the most part in the development of some of the most useful of industries. Mr. Metcalf was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 26, 1857, and is a son of Martin and Julia Ann Cushman (Arms) Metcalf.

The Metcalf genealogy is traced back to the first Michael Metcalf, who was born June 17, 1587, and from whom Foster M. Metcalf is descended through Michael Metcalf (2), born August 29, 1620; Jonathan Metcalf, born September 10, 1650; John Metcalf, born in 1678; John Metcalf (2), born in 1704; Joseph Metcalf, Esq., born in 1744; Rev. David Metcalf, born in 1785; and Martin Metcalf. Martin Metcalf was born near Utica, New York, son of David and Mabel Bell (Tolles) Metcalf, December 12, 1823. His father was a native of Massachusetts, and became one of the pioneers of Oneida county in 1814. At the age of sixteen years Martin Metcalf entered upon a successful business career

Hosted by Google

as a hardware merchant, selling chiefly through peddlers who traveled throughout the Empire state. With this experience he came to Battle Creek in 1847 and established himself in the same line, sending teams throughout the country, but, having been burned out June 9, 1849, at the time the old Liberty *Press* was destroyed by fire, he then went to Detroit, where he engaged in his occupation as a coppersmith for E. Shepard & Company, and subsequently went to Grand Rapids, where he was employed in the same calling by Foster & Perry, afterward being admitted into partnership in the firm, which, as Foster, Martin & Company, and later as Foster & Metcalf, was continued from 1857 to 1865. In the winter of 1869-70, Mr. Metcalf again became a resident of Battle Creek, where he engaged in the general hardware business for the three following years, after which he established himself as a real estate, pension and patent attorney, a profession which he followed up to the time of his death, December 26, 1897. In the preparation of papers, in acting as solicitor and counsel in patent cases, and in the management of litigation both in the patent office and courts of law, he met with a large measure of success, as he did also in the presentation of claims to the pension bureau, in which his pertinacity was a conspicuous feature and won for him a distinguished record in the department at Washington for his energy and fidelity to the interests of his clients.

Mr. Metcalf was a pioneer in the propagation of fish by artificial methods, and for several years was a co-worker with the Hon. Spencer F. Baird, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and commissioner of fisheries. He was the first to discover the habits of the Michigan grayling, and their propagation by artificial means. For two or three years he maintained a hatchery near Battle Creek where he raised trout, grayling and German carp. For many years he was a regular contributor to the *House Journal*, while that paper was edited by the Hon. N. P. Willis, many of his earlier writings being under the *nome de plume* of "M. Forrest."

Mr. Metcalf was a man of extensive reading, varied knowledge and large intelligence. He devoted many years to gathering the genealogy of the Metcalf family, and accumulated extensive records of great value, collaborating with other members of the family in publishing a record, but much of his material has never been published. He took a lively interest in the progress of invention and science, a trait inherited in no small degree by his children, and was for many years a correspondent of the late Prof. Winchell, of the University of Michigan, taking an active and prominent part in the investigation which led to the discovery and development of the salt industry of Michigan. He was also a conspicuous and efficient promoter of the provision secured from the legislature of Michigan offering a bounty per bushel for the salt manufactured when this great industry was first inaugurated within the borders of the state. In 1862 he was appointed by President Lincoln, consul to Mexico, but in the disturbed condition of that country and his own, and by the advice of friends in New York resigned his commission, a copy of which follows:

"DEPARTMENT OF STATE

"WASHINGTON, April 24, 1862.

"To the person in charge of the Archives of United States Consulate, Aguas Calientes, Mexico.

"SIR: The President having appointed Martin Metcalf, Esq., of Michigan, to be Consul of the United States at Aguas Calientes, Mexico, I will thank you to deliver to him the records and archives of the

Hosted by Google

Consulate, the seal, press, flag and arms, together with the Statutes at Large, Wheaton's Digest, and all other books and property in your possession belonging to the United States. I am, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

(Signed) "F. W. SEWARD,

"*Assistant Secretary.*"

At the time of his comparatively sudden death deep sorrow was expressed by a very wide circle of acquaintances in the vicinity of Battle Creek and throughout the state. Mr. Metcalf was married January 6, 1857, to Julia Ann Cushman Arms, daughter of the Hon. Albert Arms, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and to this union there were born three children: Foster Martin, September 26, 1858; Albert Ball, September 7, 1860, and Fannie Marie, July 6, 1869. The mother passed away July 6, 1906. Albert Ball Metcalf was married November 23, 1893, to Mattie Moore, daughter of William Moore. Fannie Marie Metcalf, who was educated in the schools of Battle Creek, married Edwin A. Bush, and now resides in this city.

Foster M. Metcalf received his education in the schools of Grand Rapids and Battle Creek, to which latter city he was brought by his parents when eleven years of age, and in 1880 entered the employ of the Upton Manufacturing Company. When that company removed its plant to Port Huron, he accompanied the force, but after one and one-half years returned to Battle Creek and set up the first engine of the Advance Thresher Company's manufacture, having returned for that purpose. He continued with the Advance Thresher Company for about two years, and then enlisted his services with what was then known as the Battle Creek Machinery Company, but which later became the Battle Creek Steam Pump Company, and is now known as the American Steam Pump Company, manufacturers of Marsh and American steam pumps and woodworking machinery, and one of the largest concerns of Battle Creek. He has been the mechanical engineer for this company since 1896, and has established and maintained a far-reaching reputation in his chosen field of endeavor. A stalwart Republican, he has been a member of the board of public works for nearly two years, and at the present time is acting as secretary of that body. He is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and fraternally is connected with A. T. Metcalf Lodge No. 419, of Battle Creek, which lodge was named for his uncle Abraham T. Metcalf; has attained the chapter degree, and also holds membership in the Elks.

On June 20, 1888, Mr. Metcalf was married to Miss May Howe, who was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, daughter of Chester D. and Sarah E. (Fonda) Howe. Chester D. Howe, who was a well known contractor and builder and highly esteemed citizen of Battle Creek for thirty-two years, was born April 10, 1825, at Springwater, Livingston county, New York. At the age of twenty-four years he was united in marriage with Miss Eunice M. Dake, who died June 19, 1852, and some three years later, in the spring of 1855, Mr. Howe came to Battle Creek. Here he continued to reside until his death, March 23, 1887, when his community lost an honorable and upright citizen, his many acquaintances a warm-hearted friend, and his family a kind, generous and indulgent father. On November 26, 1857, he was married to Sarah E. Fonda, who was born in Bellevue, Michigan, February 28, 1835, daughter of William C. and Lauretta Fonda. She removed with her parents to Pennfield when two years of age, and there resided until her marriage to Mr. Howe, and from that time lived in Battle Creek until her death, December 15, 1896. She was a devoted

Hosted by Google

member of the Presbyterian church, having made that her place of worship for thirty-three years, and possessed a beautiful Christian character, being much beloved by all her friends and associates. She selected the text for the pastor, Rev. W. S. Potter, which she wished to be used at her funeral: "Thanks be to God Who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Mr. and Mrs. Howe were both buried at Oakhill cemetery. They were the parents of two children: May and Ida M.

To Mr. and Mrs. Metcalf there have been born four children: Howard Howe, May 14, 1889; Harold Chester, June 13, 1890; Earl Foster, September 3, 1891; and Mildred Ida, born November 1, 1892, all in Battle Creek. All the boys are graduates of the Battle Creek High school. Howard attended the University of Michigan, taking a two-year course in the engineering department, and is now draughtsman for the American Steam Pump Company. Harold Chester, who has charge of the business office of the Battle Creek *Journal*, graduated from high school in the class of 1909, and in the fall graduated from the Michigan Business and Normal College. Earl Foster, who is with the office force of the Michigan Carton Company, of Battle Creek, was a fellow student with his brother both in high school and college. Mildred M. is now attending St. Mary's College at Monroe, Michigan. The members of this family are widely known throughout Battle Creek and are general favorites in the social life of the city.

SAMUEL STEVENS, M. D. The world instinctively and justly renders deference to the man whose success in life has been worthily achieved, who has attained a competence by honorable methods, and whose high reputation is solely the result of preeminent merit in his chosen profession. We pay a deservedly high tribute to the heroes who on the bloody battlefields of war win glorious victories and display as much courage and skill as are required to wage the bloodless conflicts of civil life. Especially in the arduous career of a physician are required all the qualities which go to make the ideal soldier—courage, daring, self-control, and the keen judgment necessary to make an instant decision when life itself is at stake. Absolute indifference to physical comfort as contrasted with his duty, combined with a hardy frame and a complete knowledge of his profession; these they must have in common, but the physician must add to all these the divine gift of sympathy and a personal magnetism which often does more for his patients than medicine.

A man who represents in his personality all those qualities which go to make up the ideal physician is Dr. Samuel Stevens, whose birth occurred in Cass county Michigan, June 15, 1868. He is the son of D. W. and Elizabeth (Hultz) Stevens, the former a native of Port Byron, New York and the latter of Cass county, Michigan. The father, who is a veteran of the war between the states, has devoted his life to the activities of an agriculturist ever since the close of the war and is at present living on his farm in Cass county. The worthy wife and mother passed to the Great Beyond in May, 1903. The father, who was living in the Empire state at the outbreak of the Civil war, enlisted in Battery L of the New York Heavy Artillery as a volunteer and served for over two years, seeing much active service. He and his wife were the parents of six children, two being sons and four daughters. Dr. Stevens is the eldest member of the family and the only one residing in Calhoun county.

For his preliminary education, Dr. Stevens is indebted to the district schools of his locality and he subsequently entered the high school

Hosted by Google

of Vandalia, Michigan, from which he was graduated with the class of 1888. Upon making the decision as to his life work he entered the medical department of the Illinois State University and in 1894 received his well-earned degree from the College of Physicians & Surgeons at Chicago. By no means of the type which is content to "let well enough alone" Dr. Stevens has subsequently taken a good deal of post-graduate work, among the institutions which he selected as an assistance to his keeping step with modern progress being the Chicago Polyclinic, the New York Polyclinic, the New York Hospital, the New York Skin & Cancer Hospital and St. Bartholomew's clinic. He has also attended clinic at Grant Hospital of Columbus, Ohio, and Harper Hospital Detroit, Michigan.

Dr. Stevens began his practice in Keeler, Van Buren county, Michigan, and he went thence to Dowagiac, Michigan; after a short period he removed to Kalamazoo, where he engaged successfully in practice, and in October, 1908 he came to Battle Creek, where he has received general recognition for ability of high order and where he has built up a lucrative practice. He does a general practice and has also followed the tendency of the age toward specialization, those diseases to which he has devoted a particular amount of study being rectal, skin and genito urinary diseases.

Dr. Stevens is a public spirited citizen, being helpfully interested in all causes likely to redound to the welfare and progress of the whole community. He is independent in politics, in that he ever endeavors to discover and support the best man and the best principle. He owns a considerable amount of property, both here and in Kalamazoo and has other interest of importance. He is a member of the First Presbyterian church of Battle Creek, Michigan.

Mrs. Stevens was previous to her marriage Miss Ruby Pearl Berger, of Klinger Lake, St. Joseph county, Michigan. She was born and reared in that locality and is a graduate of the White Pigeon high school. In the family are two children, namely: Lola E., now teaching music in Fresno, California; and J. Harold, with the Pennsylvania Railroad in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The attractive Stevens' residence is situated at 520 Lake avenue, while the subject's office is in the Tacoma Block.

WILLOUGHBY L. GODFREY, M. D. The world instinctively pays deference to the man whose success has been worthily achieved and whose prominence is not the less the result of an irreproachable life than of natural talents and acquired ability in the field of his chosen labor. Dr. Godfrey occupies a position of distinction as a representative of the medical profession at Battle Creek and the best evidence of his capability in the line of his chosen work is the large patronage which is accorded him. It is a well known fact that a great percentage of those who enter business life meet with failure or only a limited measure of success. This is usually due to one or more of several causes—superficial preparation, lack of close application or an unwise choice in selecting a vocation for which one is not fitted. The reverse of all this has entered into the success and prominence which Dr. Godfrey has gained. His equipment for the profession was unusually good and he has continually extended the scope of his labors through the added efficiency that comes from keeping in touch with the marked advancement that has been made by the members of the medical fraternity in the last third of a century. Since 1876 Dr. Godfrey has been engaged in the practice of medicine at Battle Creek and the years have told the tale of an unusually successfully career, due to the possession of innate

Hosted by Google

talent and unusual ability along the line of one of the most helpful professions to which one can devote his energies.

Dr. Willoughby Lyman Godfrey was born just three miles south of Battle Creek, in Battle Creek township, Calhoun county, Michigan, on the 25th of April, 1852. He is a son of Lyman and Laura Jane (Carr) Godfrey, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and the latter of whom was a native of New York. Lyman Godfrey was a child of seven years of age at the time of his parents' removal to Michigan. His father built the first log house in Battle Creek township and as it was a large one many of the old pioneers spent their first days and nights therein. Grandfather Godfrey started the first brickyard in Calhoun county and after Lyman grew to manhood he purchased it and ran it for a number of years. He married Laura Jane Carr in Battle Creek township about the year 1835; she came to Michigan with her parents when she was a little girl. Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Godfrey became the parents of four boys and four girls, all of whom are living, in 1912, except a daughter who died at the age of three years and a son who died in his tenth year.

The eldest child in a family of eight, Dr. Godfrey, of this notice, was reared to adult age and obtained his preliminary educational training in the district schools of Calhoun county. Subsequently he attended the public schools of Battle Creek and in 1873 he was matriculated as a student in the University of Michigan, in the medical department of which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1876. He initiated the active practice of his profession at Battle Creek in March, 1876, and here he has resided during the long intervening years to the present time, in 1912. He controls an extensive patronage and has achieved a wonderful amount of good along the line of his chosen work. His office is at No. 2 East Main street. In his political convictions Dr. Godfrey is a stalwart Republican and he takes an active interest in all matters projected for the good of the general welfare. He was the first married man to become a member of the Athelstan Club at Battle Creek and he is still affiliated with that organization.

March 3, 1881, at Battle Creek, was celebrated the marriage of Dr. Godfrey to Miss Lettie L. Lock, a daughter of H. L. and Lorenda L. (Kent) Lock, of Battle Creek. Mrs. Godfrey was born in the state of Vermont and she received her education in Battle Creek, whither she came with her parents about 1874. She was graduated in the Battle Creek high school. Dr. and Mrs. Godfrey have no children. Their home is maintained at No. 60 Marshall street and the same is the center of many attractive gatherings. Dr. and Mrs. Godfrey are accorded the unalloyed confidence and esteem of their fellow citizens, who love and honor them for their exemplary lives.

SAMUEL R. EATON, M. D. One of the able and representative physicians and surgeons of Calhoun county, Dr. Eaton is engaged in the successful practice of his profession in the city of Battle Creek, with office headquarters at No. 2 Main street, east, and with residence at 36 West Van Buren street. He is a native son of Michigan and a scion of one of the sterling pioneer families of the state, besides which both his paternal and maternal ancestors settled in New England in the early colonial days.

Dr. Samuel Reed Eaton was born in the city of Detroit, Michigan, on the 21st of November, 1863, at which time his father was at the front as a soldier in the Civil war, the latter having not seen his son until the future physician was one year old. Dr. Eaton is a son of Alonzo and Frances E., (Reed) Eaton, the former of whom was born

Hosted by Google

in Washtenaw county, Michigan, and the latter in the city of Detroit, from which statement it becomes evident that both families were founded in the Wolverine commonwealth in the early pioneer days. Alonzo Eaton became a popular and influential citizen of Detroit, where he served as register of deeds of Wayne county for four years,—from 1868 to 1872. Thereafter he conducted a successful conveyancing and real estate business in the Michigan metropolis, in which city he continued to maintain his home until his death, which occurred in the year 1898. The mother of Dr. Eaton passed to the life eternal in 1867, when he was a child of three years. At the inception of the Civil war Alonzo Eaton promptly tendered his services in defense of the Union. He enlisted in the Twenty-fourth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, in which he became quartermaster's sergeant, under Digby Bell, who later served as United States collector of customs at the port of Detroit. He lived up to the full tension of the great conflict through which the integrity of the Union was preserved, was promoted to the office of first lieutenant, took part in many important engagements and after being captured by the enemy was held in Libby prison for a period of six months. He ever retained a deep interest in his old comrades in arms and was a valued member of the Grand Army of the Republic for many years prior to his death. His political allegiance was given to the Democratic party.

The original progenitor of the Eaton family in America immigrated from England in 1635 and first located at Watertown, Massachusetts, this place having been the nucleus of the present city of Boston. Later on settlement was made at Dedham, Massachusetts, and representatives of the name were closely identified with the development and progress of the old Bay state. Dr. Eaton is a descendant, on the maternal side, of Rufus Blodgett, who was a patriot soldier in the Continental line in the war of the Revolution. The genealogy is briefly traced herewith. Thomas Blodgett, the first of the family in America, was born in England, in 1605, and in 1635, in company with his wife, Susanna, and their two sons, Daniel and Samuel, he came to the new world, to become one of the early settlers of Massachusetts. The subject of this review is descended from Thomas, the second son, and thence through the latter's son Thomas. The next in line was Joseph and the latter's son Joseph figures as the next in the ancestral line. Joseph Blodgett, II, married and became the father of eleven children, all of whom were born in Brimfield, Hampden county, Massachusetts, and of the number Rufus was the great-grandfather of Dr. Eaton. Four of the sons, including Rufus, were valiant soldiers in the war of the Revolution and each received an honorable discharge after the close of the great struggle for independence. Solomon, one of the number, was present at the surrender of General Burgoyne. A son of Samuel, another of the brothers, became the owner of a large estate on the site of the present city of Washington and there he erected the first house. He invested ten thousand dollars to assist in the erection of the original capitol and White House. Rufus Blodgett was born July 19, 1761, and died on the 8th of January, 1828. On the 17th of January, 1788, he wedded Bathsheba Hubbard, who was born November 22, 1762. They reared several children, and their daughter Fanny married Samuel Reed, who died in December 25, 1851, he having been one of the early settlers of southern Michigan. Samuel and Fanny (Blodgett) Reed became the parents of two children, George Clark and Frances Eliza. On the 8th of October, 1859, was solemnized the marriage of Frances Eliza Reed to Alonzo Eaton, and they became the parents of two children,—Glendora Frances, who is now the wife of William E.

Hosted by Google

Fenwick, of Bisbee, Arizona, and Dr. Samuel Reed Eaton, who is the immediate subject of this sketch. Touching the agnatic ancestry it may further be stated that John Eaton and his wife, Abigail (Damon) Eaton, set sail on the ship "Elizabeth and Ann," from England, in 1635 and landed at Watertown (now Boston), Massachusetts, whence they removed to Dedham in 1837, these having been the founders of the American family of which Dr. Eaton is a representative.

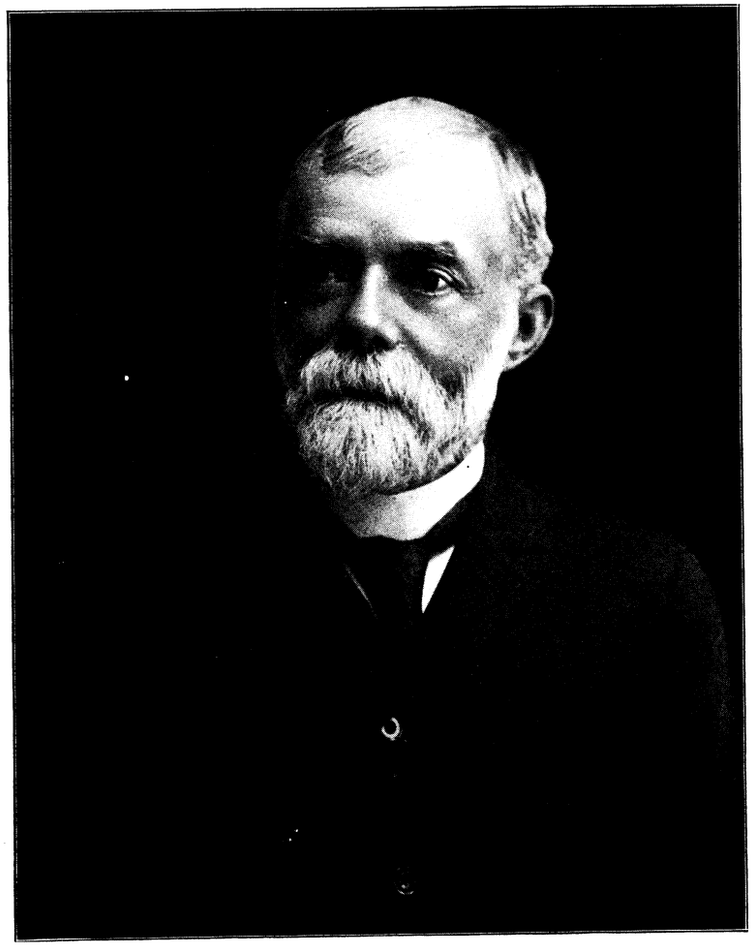
Dr Eaton is indebted to the public schools of the Michigan metropolis for his early educational discipline and at the age of twenty years he entered the employ of the Grand Trunk Railway Company. Through faithful and effective service he won promotion, and from 1891 to 1896 he held the position of traveling freight agent for this great corporation. In the meanwhile he had formulated plans for a career of broader usefulness, and in the autumn of 1896 he accordingly entered the medical department of the University of Michigan, in which he completed the prescribed curriculum and was graduated as a member of the class of 1900. After thus receiving his degree of Doctor of Medicine he came forthwith to Battle Creek, where he has since been engaged in active general practice and where he has built up a large representative professional business, based alike on his technical ability as a physician and surgeon and his personal popularity as a citizen of loyalty and public spirit. He is identified with the Calhoun County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. In politics the Doctor is aligned as a staunch advocate of the principles and policies of the Republican party, and he and his wife hold membership in the Independent Congregational church of Battle Creek. Here also he is a member of the Athelstan Club, and is affiliated with the local camp of the Modern Woodmen of America as well as with Battle Creek Lodge, No. 12, Free and Accepted Masons.

On the 16th of June, 1899, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Eaton to Miss Mary Ione White, who was born in Ohio, where she received her rudimentary education, and who was seventeen years of age at the time of the family removal to Shepherd, Isabella county, Michigan. After completing the curriculum of the public schools in that village she took a course in the University of Michigan school of Music, and she thus developed most effectively her fine musical talent. She is a daughter of Benjamin J. White, who is one of the representative business men of Shepherd, Michigan. Dr. and Mrs. Eaton have two children, —Frances Fay and Margaret Pauline.

Peter Hoffmaster was born October 28, 1837, and died at Battle Creek December 31, 1901. He was one of the builders of business and civic leaders of Battle Creek, and to the generation that knew him and his work a review of his career is hardly necessary. None of the citizens of the last century deserve a higher place in the history of Battle Creek, and to the present generation his life and services have an intrinsic value and interest.

In business the chief monument to his enterprise is the establishment at 17-19-21 Main street West, known throughout this vicinity as P. Hoffmaster Sons Co. Limited. With considerable mercantile experience but small capital Mr. Hoffmaster came to Battle Creek in 1872 and with Charles Austin as a partner established the first exclusive dry-goods store in the town. A room at 19 Main street, on part of the site still occupied, was the place of beginning and the stock was not remarkable in quantity or variety. But the personalities behind it gave the business the impetus of a growing concern and in a short time their trade was of a reliable and profitable character. Half of the

Hosted by Google



P Hoffmaster

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

store room at 21 Main street provided the first quarters for expansion, and it is noteworthy that this was the first double store in Battle Creek. Both the partners had sons whom they desired to take into the business, and to make this possible it was decided to dissolve the partnership, Mr. Hoffmaster buying the other's share in the business at that location. He then started his sons as clerks and made their promotion depend on the capability of their performances.

During the thirty years in which the business has been conducted under the Hoffmaster name its prosperity has never decreased. The original enterprise was broadened by the addition of other mercantile departments, and though always at the same site the quarters were extended to meet the demands of stock and trade. Thus was created what justifies the honor of being the first large department store in Battle Creek, although it has not included the varied stocks of a general department house.

Up to the time of his death Mr. Hoffmaster was the creating and energizing spirit of this enterprise, and the business policy which he inaugurated has always been maintained through the changing conditions of modern trade. A foremost merchant, he was also identified with other affairs in his city. He served as treasurer of the Home Savings & Loan Association, was a director of the Merchants Savings Bank, was a trustee of Kalamazoo College, and was vice president of the Wequetonsing Resort Association at Traverse Bay, where he had a beautiful summer home in which during his latter years he spent two or three months each year.

Peter Hoffmaster was born in Poland township, Mahoning county, Ohio, a son of Gottlieb and Susannah (Eholtz) Hoffmaster. The family, which came from Germany early in the last century, was established in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1817, by George Frederick Hoffmaster, the grandfather. Gottlieb, the father, was born at Fellbach, Wuertemberg, April 3, 1809, and was eight years old at the time of the emigration. In 1823 the family removed to Mahoning county, where he grew to maturity. In 1832 he married Susannah Eholtz, and they continued to reside in Mahoning county for twenty-two years. In 1854 they came to Allegan county, Michigan, settling at Hopkins. Here the wife passed away on June 17, 1878. Gottlieb Hoffmaster attained a great age. At his death, which occurred in Allegan county, March 21, 1903, he was very nearly ninety-four years old.

The third in a family of seven, Peter Hoffmaster spent his youth on the home farm and received a fair common school education. A fondness for reading was one of the sources from which he received not only practical benefit in business but also the breadth of view which enabled him to look upon the world with vision of its greatness and sympathetic judgment of its defects. Having worked at home until he was of age, he then determined to begin a career in business. At Wayland, in Allegan county, he obtained employment in a hotel, and the two years there gave him much valuable experience. In 1859 he became clerk in a dry-goods house of Kalamazoo, and nine years as an employe gave him the proficiency which he displayed afterward in independent management. With the senior partner of the store in which he had been employed he then established a new store at Kalamazoo, and did a successful business until his removal to Battle Creek in 1872.

For many years Mr. Hoffmaster was a member of the Baptist church, served as trustee and deacon, and gave liberally for its support. His personal morality was as marked as his piety. He never used tobacco or liquor in any form, and temperate habits were an in-

Hosted by Google

tegral part of his character. His interest in young men led him to many acts of helpfulness. At Kalamazoo he was one of the enthusiastic supporters of the Young Men's Christian Association, of which he was a charter member, and he also aided in the organization of the association at Battle Creek.

Mr. Hoffmaster was married, Feb. 14th, 1861, to Miss Lavina Blodgett. The careers of their two sons, twins, are sketched in succeeding paragraphs. On August 14, 1865, Mr. Hoffmaster married Miss Helen McGown. She was born in Battle Creek and was a daughter of Edward and Elsie (Deuel) McGown. Her father, a millwright, first came to Michigan in 1833, locating at Verona. He later returned to New York, where on July 19, 1837, he was married, and brought his bride to the new home he had made in the west. He was actively identified with the early development of Battle Creek and vicinity. Mrs. Hoffmaster gave a wealth of affection and care to her two step-sons, and reared them from the time they were children. Her death occurred Oct. 30th 1905, and both she and her husband now rest in Mountain Home cemetery at Kalamazoo.

WILLIAM M. HOFFMASTER. The chairman of P. Hoffmaster Sons Company Limited, the large dry-goods, carpet, cloak and suit store whose history has been told in preceding sketches, is William M. Hoffmaster, one of the twin sons of the late Peter Hoffmaster. Besides his important place as the head of this company, Mr. Hoffmaster is closely identified with other business affairs of Battle Creek, and is a citizen of influence and progressive ideals.

He was born at Kalamazoo, August 31, 1862. When he was ten years old the family came to Battle Creek, where he attended the public schools and the Ellsworth Business College. He and his brother were closely associated even during their school days, and have worked together in most of their business undertakings. He entered his father's business in 1883, three years later than his brother. He proved a capable clerk and soon gained the confidence and dependence of his father, eventually being admitted to partnership. He and his brother managed the store for two years after his father's death, until 1903, when the business was incorporated under the style noted above. William M. Hoffmaster was elected chairman of the company, and has held that position ever since.

He was also one of the original stockholders in the Advance Pump & Compressor Company and is interested in the Union Steam Pump Co., all of which are manufacturing enterprises of Battle Creek. Like his brother, he has also helped promote the real estate development of the city, and is the owner of considerable business property and residence lots on which he has erected a number of dwellings.

As a citizen he has served on the local police commission and has given support to all the worthy movements for the upbuilding and welfare of his home city. He affiliates with the Knights of Pythias and the Elks, is a member of the Athelstan Club and at the Country Club takes his diversion in golf. He is also a director of the Wequetonsing Resort Association at Traverse Bay, where his father had his summer home. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian church, where he attends. Mr. Hoffmaster was married October 30, 1895, to Miss Mary Elizabeth Deno, daughter of Anthony Deno, of Bay City. Their residence is at 217 Maple street.

RILLIE F. HOFFMASTER. Of the two sons of the late Peter Hoffmaster, the first to enter business was Rillie F., who is now treasurer

Hosted by Google

of the P. Hoffmaster Sons Co. Limited, the splendid mercantile establishment whose founding and growth have been sketched above.

Rillie F. Hoffmaster was born at Kalamazoo, August 31, 1862, and has lived in Battle Creek since 1872, in which year his father began business here. Most of his education was obtained in the city schools, and later he attended the Ellsworth Business College. As it was his father's policy that both sons should earn their advancement on their own merit, Rillie F., began as a clerk in 1880 and worked with the other employees until he had acquired all the details of merchandising. On the death of his father he and his brother became executors of the estate for the other heirs. February 1, 1903, the mercantile business was incorporated under the name of P. Hoffmaster Sons Company Limited, which was capitalized at seventy-five thousand dollars. William M. Hoffmaster was chosen chairman, R. F. became treasurer, and Helen M. Hoffmaster secretary. At the present time the officers are the same except that F. O. Nickerson is secretary. As the oldest dry-goods store in Battle Creek, it is also one of the largest in this section of the state in extent and volume of its trade. It occupies three store rooms and the basement of the Opera House block, on the same site where the elder Hoffmaster began business forty years ago.

Besides his association with this establishment for over thirty years, Mr. Hoffmaster has also been active in other lines, especially real estate. In 1899 he built the two-story brick at 85-87 West Main known as the Hoffmaster block, and in 1903 he erected what is called the new Hoffmaster block, a three-story business and office structure, at 79-81-83 West Main street, being still owner of both these buildings. For some years he has been a director in the Merchants Savings Bank, and in the Advance Pump & Compressor Company. Fraternally he is a Knight of Pythias, is a member of the Athelstan Club, and a charter member of the Elks lodge. His residence is at 219 Main street East.

Mr. R. F. Hoffmaster was married January 6, 1892, to Miss Helene Schoonmaker, of Savannah, New York. Her parents, Depuy and Bianca (Stiles) Schoonmaker, both belonged to old Dutch families of New York state. She was born and educated at Savannah, and also attended school in Syracuse. She is one of the active and liberal supporters of the Presbyterian church in Battle Creek. Four children were born of their marriage. Peter, who was named for his grandfather, died in 1896 at the age of three years. The other children are Louise, Florence and Helen, all born in Battle Creek.

THOMAS J. SHIPP. One of the most consistent and important functions of this publication is to accord specific recognition to those families whose names have been closely and worthily concerned with civic and material development and upbuilding of Calhoun county, and thus there is distinctive satisfaction in presenting within this volume a brief review of the career of Thomas J. Shipp, who is a native of the county and a member of a family that was here founded in the early pioneer days. He has long been numbered among the substantial agriculturists and stock-growers of Eckford township, which has been his home from his boyhood days, and there he is now the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He is a man who has accounted well as one of the world's productive workers and he has gained independence and generous prosperity through his well directed endeavors, the while he has so ordered his course as to merit and receive the unqualified confidence and esteem of the community in which he has lived from his youth to the present time.

Hosted by Google

In the city of Marshall, the judicial center of Calhoun county, Thomas J. Shipp was born on the 17th of April, 1845, and it may well be understood that the present attractive city was at that time a mere village, though it was an important trading center and one of the leading towns of southern Michigan. Mr. Shipp is a son of Joseph Shipp, who was born in the town of Chipping-Sodbury, Gloucestershire, England, on the 28th of May, 1816, and whose father, William Shipp, was there engaged in the milling and baking business. Joseph Shipp was reared and educated in his native land and in 1832, when about sixteen years of age, he severed the home ties and came to America. For a period of about ten months after his arrival in the United States he found employment in Chautauqua county, New York, and in 1833 he went to Toronto, Canada, where he remained until the early part of the following year, when he came to the territory of Michigan and established his home at Marshall, the capital of Calhoun county. There he engaged in buying and selling of live stock and he became one of the prominent business men and influential citizens of the pioneer community with which he thus identified himself about three years prior to the admission of Michigan to the Union. He had gained experience in the bakery business in the establishment of his father and for a period of about one year he was associated with Edward Bostwick in the conducting of a bakery in the little village of Marshall. In 1841 he returned to his old home in England, for a visit, and on the 13th of March, 1842, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Saunders, the sixth in order of birth of the children of Thomas and Ann (Smith) Saunders, both of whom were natives of England, where the father was superintendent of a large landed estate, until 1832, when he came to America. Thomas Saunders found employment in the woolen mills at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, during his first summer in the United States and he then went to Chautauqua county, New York, where he entered into negotiations for the purchase of land, but he was drowned on the 4th of December, 1832, while crossing Silver lake, that county, in a canoe. He was twice married and the maiden name of his second wife was Christiana Shipp. Within a short period after the tragic death of her husband Mrs. Saunders returned to her old home in England remaining a short time; she passed the residue of her life in Lansing, Michigan, where she died aged ninety-six years.

Immediately after their marriage Joseph Shipp and his bride set forth for America, and the voyage was made on a sailing vessel of the type common to that day. They arrived in the port of New York city in June of that year, thence proceeded by boat to Albany, by canal to Buffalo and then onward to Detroit, Michigan, by a vessel plying the Great Lakes. From Detroit they proceeded with team and wagon to Jackson and thence by stage to Marshall, where Mr. Shipp had previously established his home. Joseph Shipp secured three hundred and twenty acres of land, in Eckford township, and finally removed from Marshall to his farm, a very appreciable part of which he reclaimed from the forest wilds. He was one of the sterling pioneers of Calhoun county, was a man of ability and inflexible integrity, and he wielded no little influence in connection with public affairs in the pioneer community. He attained to the venerable age of seventy-one years and died on the old homestead farm, secure in the high esteem of all who knew him. His wife is now at Homer, Michigan, with her daughter Harriet.

Thomas J. Shipp gained his early education in the village schools of Marshall and did not attend school after the removal of the family to the farm, save for a period of two months, his age at the time of re-

Hosted by Google

moval having been sixteen years. He assisted materially in the reclamation and other arduous work of the pioneer farmstead and in 1880 his father divided the property and gave him one hundred and sixty acres of the same, though he assumed in the connection an appreciable indebtedness. About ninety acres of the land had been cleared and made available for cultivation, and after erecting a modest house on the place established his home therein, in June of the year mentioned. He has developed one of the fine farms of Eckford township, has made the best of improvement of a permanent order, including the remodeling and enlargement of his house and the erection of a large basement barn, and he has for many years been known as one of the substantial and progressive agriculturists and stock-growers of the county. He has represented his township as a member of the county board of supervisors and was chairman of that body for some time, his effort having ever been to further those public enterprises and measures which tend to conserve the best interests of the county and its people. He cast his first presidential vote for General Ulysses S. Grant, in 1866, and has continuously remained a staunch and intelligent advocate of the principles and policies of the Republican party. Both he and his wife early became members of the Methodist church, and their ideal companionship continued for nearly thirty years, the gracious ties being severed when the devoted wife and mother was summoned to eternal rest, on the 22d of April, 1901, her memory being revered by all who came within the sphere of her gentle influence.

On the 22d of November, 1871, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Shipp to Miss Frances S. Skinner, who was born in England and who was four years of age at the time of her parents' immigration to America. She was a daughter of John Skinner, and the family passed the first year in the state of New York, after which removal was made to Calhoun county, Michigan, where Mr. Skinner became a substantial farmer. Mrs. Shipp was reared and educated in this county and was fifty two years of age at the time of her death. Of the three children the eldest is Frank J., who is now general manager of the Dayton Last Block Works, at Gaylord, Michigan; the second is Dr. W. Sam Shipp, who is engaged in the practice of his profession in the city of Battle Creek and who is individually mentioned on other pages of this work; and the youngest is Mary E., who is the wife of P. S. Davidson, of Marshall. Frank J. was graduated in Albion College as a member of the class of 1896, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and Mrs. Davidson completed her education in Kalamazoo College.

W. Samuel Shipp, M. D. This representative physician and surgeon of Battle Creek is a scion in the third generation of a family whose name has been prominently linked with the industrial and civic development of Calhoun county, where his grandfather, Joseph Shipp, established a home in the early pioneer days. The Doctor is a son of Thomas J. Shipp, who is one of the substantial farmers and sterling citizens of Eckford township, this county, and a sketch of whose career appears on other pages of this work, so that further details concerning the family history are not demanded in the review here presented.

Dr. William Samuel Shipp was born on the old homestead farm, in Eckford township, Calhoun county, Michigan, on the 22d of January, 1876, and after availing himself of the advantages of the district schools he entered the high schools in the city of Marshall, where he continued his studies for some time. He thereafter finished preparatory work and two years in Albion College. Within this period he served as a clerk in the office of the secretary of state, at Lansing, his appointment

Hosted by Google

to this position having been made by Hon. Washington Gardiner, who was at the time incumbent of the office of secretary of state of Michigan. Dr. Shipp held this crelical position during a part of the years 1895 and 1896, when not pursuing his studies in college, and from June, 1898, until September of the following year he remained on the home farm. He then entered the medical department of the University of Michigan, in which he completed the prescribed curriculum and was graduated in June, 1903, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. After his graduation he passed one year as interne in the university hospital and through the wide and varied clinical experience there gained he the more thoroughly fortified himself for independent professional work. In October, 1904, Dr. Shipp opened an office in the city of Battle Creek, and here he has since devoted himself zealously and effectively to the work of his profession, in which his success has been on a parity with his recognized ability and his signal devotion to his chosen calling. He is essentially one of the representative physicians and surgeons of the younger generation in his native county and through his character and services he has added materially to the prestige of a name long honored in Calhoun county. In politics he pays allegiance to the Republican party and he is loyal and progressive in his civic attitude. He holds membership in the Calhoun County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. His office headquarters are in the Arcade building, 49-51 West Main street, and he resides at 254 Calhoun street. He and his wife are popular figures in the social life of their home city, and here he is identified with Battle Creek Lodge, No. 12, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, as is he also with the lodge of Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and that of the Knights of Pythias. He is identified with the Athelstan Club and the Country Club.

At Tecumseh, Lenawee county, Michigan, on the 28th of June, 1905, Dr. Shipp was united in marriage to Miss Florence D. Temple, who was there born and reared and who is a daughter of John S. and Helen (Ide) Temple. Mr. Temple was engaged in the lumber business at Tecumseh for a number of years and he is now devoting his attention to agricultural pursuits and dairy farming, with a valuable landed estate of three hundred acres, located in the vicinity of Tecumseh. Mrs. Shipp was graduated in the Tecumseh high school, as a member of the class of 1901, and thereafter attended the literary or academic department of the University of Michigan for three years. Dr. and Mrs. Shipp have a fine little son, Robert Temple, who was born on the 10th of November, 1908.

George B. Fisher. Beginning the battle of life for himself with no armament for the conflict but his brawny arm, his skillful hand, his ready brain and his determined spirit, George B. Fisher, one of the leading farmers and livestock men of Fredonia township, Calhoun county, has brought himself, by his tireless industry, business capacity and good management to a condition of substantial worldly comfort in a financial way, and one of high standing and general esteem as a man and citizen wherever he is known.

Mr. Fisher was born in Pennsylvania on March 13, 1865, and reared to the age of eleven years in that great hive of industry and universal productiveness. He is a son of Solomon and Elizabeth (Bane) Fisher, also natives of Pennsylvania, the former born on March 12, 1824, and the latter on February 6, 1829. In 1876 the family moved to this state and located on a three acre tract of land in Eaton county, where the father lived ten years. The closing years of their life were passed

Hosted by Google

at the home of his son George, where he died in February, 1907. The mother died in May, 1901.

They were the parents of fourteen children, nine of whom are living. Of the whole number George was the eleventh in the order of birth. His brother William was a valiant Union soldier during the Civil war, going through the momentous and sanguinary conflict from beginning to end, and seeing a great deal of active and perilous service. The father was a Democrat in his political faith and allegiance and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church in religious affiliation. He attained the advanced age of eighty-three years, and died as he had lived, held in high regard by all who knew him well enough to understand and appreciate his genuine worth.

George B. Fisher attended the district schools in Eaton and Calhoun counties and completed in them the education he had begun in his native state, where he also attended only a country school. At an early age he was obliged by the circumstances of the family to seek employment for his own support, and he found it as a hand hired by the month on farms. This method of making progress he continued until his marriage, then took charge of a farm on his own account. In 1892 he bought sixty acres of land, which was the nucleus of his present fine farm of 382 acres, which his enterprise and skill as a farmer has brought to its present advanced stage of cultivation and productiveness, and on which he has made all the improvements, erecting the commodious, imposing and convenient dwelling he occupies and all the outbuildings, fences and other works of construction on the place.

On this large acreage Mr. Fisher carries on a thriving general farming industry according to the most modern and approved methods of tillage, conducting his work with such vigor and good judgment that he makes every day of it tell to his advantage. Here he also has an extensive business in raising and handling live stock, principally sheep of good grades, of which he feeds great numbers every winter. In addition he buys and sells live stock extensively, and so great is his care in every department and detail of his stock business that his output has a high rank in the markets and his reputation as a breeder and stock man is widespread and very good.

Mr. Fisher was married on March 21, 1888, to Miss Alice Skinner, a daughter of John Skinner who was born in England and became a resident of Eckford township in his young manhood. He passed the remainder of his days in that township, after locating in it, all his years being devoted to general farming and raising live stock, in both of which he was very successful. At the time of his death he owned a fine farm of 140 acres and other valuable property of various kinds.

Mr. and Mrs. Fisher have two children, their daughter Vera, who is in school, and their daughter Bessie, who is at home. Both attend the district schools. Their mother is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. The father is a Republican in political relations, active in public affairs and a man of influence in his township. He has served as township treasurer, also director of the school district for the past fourteen years, not being desirous of public office and therefore not seeking any. But he has always been loyal to his party and supports its principles and candidates in all the elections, township, county, state and national, trying always, however, to aid in securing the nomination of the best men on local tickets. He is essentially a self-made man in the commendable sense of the term, and his training in the hard but thorough school of experience has made him wise to the needs of his locality and energetic and intelligent in helping to provide them. He is regarded on all sides as a representative and very worthy and useful citizen.

Hosted by Google

EDWIN COLBY LEWIS. Of the younger members of the bar of Calhoun county, probably none have attained higher rank and a better class of practice than Edwin Colby Lewis, who has been a resident of Battle Creek since 1909. He came to this city to join Mr. Arthur B. Williams in his large commercial and corporate law business. Since the retirement of the latter from the firm to become general counsel for the Postum Cereal Company, Ltd., Mr. Lewis has succeeded to the general clientage of the old partnership, which includes a number of the strongest financial and manufacturing institutions of the city..

Edwin Colby Lewis was born in Bryan, Texas, March 29, 1880. His parents were Edwin C. and Katherine (Devine) Lewis, the former of whom died about 1885 and the latter in June, 1904. The father, who was a native of Northfield, Vermont, was an artist by profession, and when the war broke out he enlisted from his home town in a Vermont regiment. He was a lieutenant of his company and later won the rank of captain. After the enlistment of colored troops began, he served as acting colonel of a colored regiment. At the close of his military experience, he lived for some years in the south, but when his son, Edwin C., was four years old, brought his family back to Waitsfield, Vermont, soon afterward. His wife, who was a southern woman, and whose father and two brothers were killed in the service of the Confederate army, was born at White Sulphur Springs, Virginia. She survived her husband nearly twenty years and died at Detroit. There were three children, the other two being: Robert E., of St. Johnsbury, Vermont; and Miss Katherine M., now living in New York City.

After his preparatory schooling at St. Johnsbury Academy, where he was graduated in 1897, Edwin C. Lewis entered Yale College and received his B. A. degree from that institution in 1901. For a year he was engaged as teacher of mathematics at St. Johnsbury Academy, and then taught for five years in the Detroit University school, a preparatory school familiarly called the D. U. S. During the last three years there he pursued his studies in the Detroit College of Law during the school year and at the University of Chicago Law School during the summer. His degree in law was obtained on graduation from the Detroit College, and he was admitted to the bar in 1907. Resigning his place in the preparatory school he began practice in the office of the late Harlow P. Davock of Detroit, but after a few weeks he became associated with the firm of Clark, Jones & Bryant of the same city. In February, 1909, he came to Battle Creek as already stated. The firm of Williams & Lewis, whose offices were over the old National Bank, where Mr. Lewis is still located, continued until April, 1911, at which date the senior partner took up his present duties.

Mr. Lewis in politics is a Republican. He is a member and a director of the Athelstan Club, a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Knights of Pythias and the Masonic fraternity. He is a member of the Country Club and its secretary, and also holds memberships in the University and Boat Club at Detroit. He is a member of Douglas Chapter of the law fraternity Phi Delta Phi at the University of Chicago and of the Phi Beta Kappa at Yale. His church preference is with the Congregational, but he is not a member. Mr. Lewis was married October 19, 1912, to Miss Grace Thompson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Thompson, of Detroit, Michigan.

FRED C. GALE. A native of Calhoun county, Michigan, Fred Clayton Gale has here resided during practically the entire period of his life time thus far. He is engaged in farming, in connection with his father-in-law, on the beautiful Hall estate, located in section 11, Le-

Hosted by Google

Roy township. This farm comprises two hundred and twenty-four acres, is in a high state of cultivation and is recognized as one of the most productive farms in the county.

Fred Clayton Gale was born in Battle Creek township, Calhoun county, Michigan, December 26, 1887, and is a son of Richard and Florence Amelia (Swart) Gale. The father was born in the city of Melbourne, Australia, November 19, 1850, and he accompanied his parents, Richard and Ann (Emery) Gale, to America in 1854, at which time he was an infant of but four years of age. The Gale family first located in New York, whence they came to Michigan about the year 1870. Location was made in LeRoy township, Calhoun county, where the parents lived until their respective deaths. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gale became the parents of twelve children, of whom Richard, Jr., was the sixth in order of birth. The young Richard was reared to maturity in New York and a few years after his advent in Michigan, in fact, on January 21, 1874, he was united in marriage with Miss Florence Amelia Swart, a daughter of Walter J. and Mary (Pennypacker) Swart, both of whom are now deceased. Four children were born of this union, as follows: Ida is now Mrs. A. A. Cameron, of Battle Creek; Olive G., also of Battle Creek; Mary Ann is the wife of Ray Fanning, of Emmett, Michigan; and Fred C., the immediate subject of this review. Mrs. Gale was called by death on June 10, 1908. After his marriage Richard Gale, Jr., located on the Swart farm in LeRoy township and he continued to work that estate for several years, at the expiration of which he removed to Comstock, in the vicinity of which place he was engaged in farming operations for two years following. He settled on the DuBois farm in Battle Creek township and remained there for eight years, after which he went to Emmett township, and in 1908 he removed to Battle Creek, where he has since been engaged in buying live stock and wool. Mr. Gale is a good citizen, broad-minded and liberal in his attitude toward the civic advancement of his community.

To the public schools of Emmett township Fred Clayton Gale is indebted for his early education, and as a youth he lived on his father's farm, in the work and management of which he was an able assistant. After his marriage in 1908, he and his wife settled on the Hall farm, which comprises two hundred and twenty-four acres of land, and there he and his father-in-law, Homer Hall, are engaged in diversified farming and the breeding of Holstein cattle, in both of which branches they are very successful.

In politics Mr. Gale is a staunch supporter of the principles and policies for which the Republican party stands sponsor. He has been active in local politics, and in 1911 he was honored by his fellow citizens with the election to the office of township treasurer. Mr. Gale proved himself well able to handle advantageously the fiscal affairs of the township, and is now serving his second term in the office of treasurer. In a fraternal way he is affiliated with the Gleaners.

On February 5, 1908, Mr. Gale was united in marriage with Miss Eva Hall, who was born and reared in Calhoun county, and who is a daughter of Homer Hall, a sketch of whose life appears on other pages of this work, so that further information with reference to the Hall family is not deemed necessary at this point. Mr. and Mrs. Gale are the parents of one daughter, Dorothy, whose birth occurred on the 7th of July, 1910.

GEORGE T. BULLEN takes unmistakable place today as one of the leading merchants of Albion. His inherent talent has brought him up from humble circumstances through devious paths to a station of prominence

Hosted by Google

and success, only attainable by one of his sterling qualities and singleness of purpose, and his experiences have with the passing years developed his character along lines of sincerity and integrity, while in both his business and private life he has applied principles of living that never fail to command respect and admiration.

A native son of Michigan, Mr. Bullen was born at Parma, Jackson county, June 14, 1867, and is the son of George and Mary Ann (Height) Bullen. They were natives of England, reared in Broughton, Huntingtonshire, and soon after their marriage they made their way to the United States. After a short time in Ohio, they came to Jackson county, Michigan, and located in Parma, where the father carried on business as a farmer, stockman and butcher. He was accidentally drowned when his son George was a mere infant, leaving his widow with six children. The mother survived him until 1891.

In the public schools of Parma George T. Bullen acquired such education as became his, spending his summer vacations in various employment. When he was sixteen years of age he came to Albion and entered the service of McGinniss & Company, that being in 1883. The following year he secured a similar position with E. M. Slayton & Company, with whom he remained for two years, and subsequently he spent three and a half years with G. F. Bundy. After two months spent with E. F. Mills & Company, Mr. Mills disposed of his interest in the business to D. M. Galloway, a traveling salesman, and Mr. Bullen continued with the new firm as manager for two years, during the absence of Mr. Galloway. On the expiration of that period he formed a partnership with C. S. Tucker under the firm style of Bullen & Tucker, and they later purchased the dry goods business of W. B. Crane. The partnership endured for two years, after which Mr. Bullen sold out, severing his connection with the business on February 19, 1894. On the 31st of March following he opened a new stock in the Eslow building on the corner of Porter and Superior street. Two years later he moved across the street to the Dalrymple block, and enlarged his business by adding a stock of cloaks and carpets. The business grew steadily and after four years spent at that site, he purchased the S. M. Tuttle property, where for almost half a century a drug store had been conducted. He improved and remodeled the building, making it into a three story and basement building, and again increased his line of wares. In 1903, still more room being required by the growing demands of his business, he purchased the Brockway block at the corner of Erie and Superior streets, which he has remodeled into a large and in every way modern establishment. The store is thoroughly equipped with the best in modern accessories and is stocked with a large and carefully selected line of dry goods, carpets, cloaks, suits and ladies' ready-to-wear of all kinds, with housefurnishings in basement, and it is not too much to say that not a finer store will be found in southern Michigan outside the city of Detroit. The ever increasing volume of his trade has more than justified the expenditures which he has from time to time felt called upon to make in improvements, and they, in turn have brought him an ever increasing patronage.

In Albion, Michigan, August 27, 1890, Mr. Bullen was united in marriage with Miss Ella Young, daughter of John and Katherine Young, old residents of Albion. Three sons have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bullen,—Donald D., Ralph R., and George E., and a daughter, Katherine Mary. The family makes its home in the old Irwin homestead at No. 103 Irwin avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Bullen are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Bullen is a member of the board of trustees of the church, also. He is well advanced in Masonry, being

Hosted by Google

a member of Murat Lodge No. 21, A. F. & A. M.; Albion Chapter R. A. M., and Marshall Commandery Knights Templar. He is also a member of Albion Lodge No. 57, Knights of Pythias, of which he is a past chancellor, and he has been its representative to the Grand Lodge. For a number of years Mr. Bullen has been a director and vice president of the Leisure Hour club and in 1902 was its president. For six years he was a member of the board of education and for four years acted as president of that body. Mr. Bullen is a Republican, but has devoted himself exclusively to his business affairs, rather than give himself over to office seeking, and in his well known character of an earnest and conscientious man of business, his influence has been a beneficial one in the affairs of the community, and his record as citizen and private individual has been one well worthy of commendation and approval.

GEORGE S. WOOLSEY. A prominent and influential agriculturist of Calhoun county, George S. Woolsey was born in Marshall township, Calhoun county, February 29, 1840, and during his long and useful life has been a dominant factor in promoting its interests. This township is extremely fortunate in having been settled by a remarkably enterprising, industrious and intelligent class of people, noteworthy among the number having been the parents of both Mr. and Mrs. Woolsey. The immigrant ancestor of Mr. Woolsey emigrated from England to America in colonial times; he was of honored ancestry, being, without doubt, a lineal descendant of Cardinal Woolsey, of world-wide fame, although the line of descent has not yet been clearly traced. Mr. Woolsey's great-grandfather on the paternal side served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war, losing his life on the battle-field. He left two sons, the oldest, a lad of twelve years, subsequently going to New York City, and Richard, who became the grandfather of George S. Woolsey.

Richard Woolsey was but seven years old when the news of his father's death in the Revolutionary Army was received. Educated for the ministry, he had charge of a Baptist church in Delaware county, New York, for forty-two consecutive years. He subsequently bought a farm in Seneca county, New York, and there spent the remainder of his long life, being engaged in farming to some extent, although he devoted much of his time to his Master's work, being a devout and faithful servant until the last.

Daniel Woolsey, father of George S., was born, March 5, 1808, in Delaware county, New York, where he grew to manhood, and was educated. Moving with the family to Seneca county, he was there engaged in agricultural pursuits for about five years. Coming to Michigan on a prospecting tour in 1835, he took up a tract of wild land in Calhoun county, paying the government price for it. Going back then to Seneca county, New York, he remained there until the fall of 1836, when he returned to Michigan, shipping his goods to Detroit. He then started for Calhoun county with horses, but was forced to trade the horses for oxen, which could travel through mud and swamp much better than the horses. Assuming possession of his land, which was located on section eight, Marshall township, he built the typical log house of the early pioneer, and in the years that followed cleared and improved a productive farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he resided until his death, June 27, 1887. In his earlier years Daniel Woolsey was a Whig in politics, but was later a stanch supporter of the Republican party. Elected township supervisor in 1861, he served most creditably in that capacity for eight years, and during the Civil war he was treasurer of the bounty fund. He joined the Baptist church when

Hosted by Google

twenty-two years of age, and was afterward a faithful member, serving as a deacon for many years prior to his demise.

The maiden name of the wife of Daniel Woolsey was Juliana Shaffer. She was born in Colchester, New York, and died in Marshall township, Calhoun county, September 2, 1862. She was a daughter of Henry Shaffer, a Michigan landholder, and was of German ancestry.

The fourth child in a family of six children, George S. Woolsey spent his early years on the parental homestead, in Marshall township, and as a boy assisted in the pioneer labor of hewing a farm from the forest, at the same time enduring the hardships and privations incidental to frontier life. He was given excellent educational advantages for his times, attending first the district schools, later continuing his studies in Tenney's select school, in Marshall, and at the age of sixteen years entering Olivet Institute, as it was then known. At the end of a year he had to leave college on account of failing eyesight, for three years thereafter not being able to read even the newspapers, and until 1870 remained with his parents. In 1869 Mr. Woolsey bought one hundred and eighty-five acres of land, on section thirteen, Marshall township, and in the years that have since passed he has made improvements of a substantial character, including the erection of a fine residence, and substantial barns and outbuildings.

A leading member of the Republican ranks, Mr. Woolsey has been a delegate to county and state conventions, and has filled various public offices with credit to himself, and to the honor of his constituents. For two or more terms he has served as township clerk and township treasurer; was township supervisor from 1880 until 1882; and county treasurer of Calhoun county two terms, from 1883 until 1887; and for many years was a school officer. Always interested in everything pertaining to the advancement of the farming interests, Mr. Woolsey was secretary for five years of the Calhoun County Agricultural Society, and has served that organization as a member of its executive committee, as a director, and as its treasurer. For four years he was secretary of the Citizens Mutual Fire Insurance Company; and for six years has been a director and adjuster in the Michigan Mutual Tornado, Cyclone and Windstorm Insurance Company, which office he still holds.

Mr. Woolsey has been twice married. He married first, in 1867, in Convis township, Martha Lamphier, who was born in Bloomfield, New York, and came with her parents, Marcus and Susan Lamphier, to Calhoun county, Michigan, in 1857, settling near Albion. Two years later Mr. Lamphier started for the gold regions, and died soon after his arrival in California, in 1859. Mrs. Martha Woolsey passed to the higher life February 15, 1890. To her and her husband eight children were born, namely: Marcus Daniel, now a farmer in Marshall township on the same farm his grandfather bought of the U. S. Government in 1835; Freddie, lived but eighteen months; Edgar L., now deceased; Mary, also deceased; Mabel, now the wife of Howard E. Pratt, of Oakland, California; Charles Richard, of Vicksburg, Mich.; Edna, now the wife of Edwin Smith of Concord, Mich.; and Ruth, who died in August, 1889, aged three years.

On October 7, 1890, Mr. Woolsey was united in marriage with Mrs. Phebe (Hanchett) Dunham, who was born in Marengo township, Calhoun county, in 1840, a daughter of Caleb and Esther (Miller) Hanchett, and widow of Henry E. Dunham, a talented artist, who was born and bred in Vermont, and died in Michigan in 1882. By her marriage with her first husband, Mrs. Woolsey became the mother of four children, namely: Edwin C. Dunham, for many years an engineer and conductor on the Chicago and Alton Railroad, and now living retired at Glens Falls, New York; Lillian, who became the wife of Dr. I. W. Houston, of

Hosted by Google

Marshall; Charles S., a farmer of Marshall; and Montgomery H. Dunham, of Chicago.

Mr. Woolsey has been identified with the Baptist church for many years, serving both as a deacon and as a member of its Board of Trustees.

HENRY RANDT. Among the prominent citizens of Newton township, Calhoun county, Michigan, Henry Randt commands to an enviable degree the respect and esteem of those familiar with his career, and by his own energy and well directed efforts he has gained for himself a place on the roster of the county's representative farmers and stockgrowers. He has also entered actively into the public life of his community, giving of his ability and energies toward the upbuilding of this section of Calhoun county, and at the present time is a member of the town board.

Born in Buffalo county, New York, on the 15th of October, 1859, he comes directly of German lineage, both of his parents having been natives of the Fatherland. About 1849 or 1850 Henry Randt, the father, immigrated to this country and settled on a farm in New York, where he also worked by the day and month for others. Then in 1865 he came to Emmett township, Calhoun county, Michigan, bought a farm, and continued to reside on it until 1902, when he removed to Ceresco and later died there. His parents also had come to Calhoun county and continued their residence here until their deaths. The parents of Elizabeth Hagelshaw, his wife, also were natives of Germany and spent their entire lives in the land of their birth.

The immediate subject of this review received his education in the public schools of Emmett township. When he began life for himself it was as a farm hand working by the month; later he took up carpentering and followed the trade for fifteen years. He is now established as one of the foremost agriculturists of his township, owns a fine tract of 129 acres that is well improved, and believes thoroughly in the use of advanced methods in farming, his own attractive property giving ample evidence of his progressive attitude in this respect. He is strongly in favor of the good roads movement.

The first marriage of Mr. Randt took place on May 29, 1890, and united him to Miss Sylvia Lewis, a daughter of John Lewis, who was one of the early settlers and thrifty farmers of Newton township. To this union were born three children, Doris, Donald and Dean, all of whom are at home. The wife and mother died in 1904, a worthy member of the Protestant Methodist church. In 1909 Mr. Randt took as his second wife Eva Luke, a daughter of John Mead, who was a farmer and lumberman in his native state of New York.

In political affairs Mr. Randt has always supported the Republican party. He has served as school commissioner of his township, as a justice of the peace, and for two terms as town treasurer, being now a member of the town board. He has been a successful man in a material sense, and what is of infinitely more value, has so lived that he commands the respect of his fellow men as a citizen of honor and true worth.

JAMES HARVEY HUGGETT is one of the estimable farmers of Penfield township in Calhoun county, whose quiet, well-ordered life is truly representative of that great and worthy class of American citizens whose material products are so necessary and whose characters are so substantial a part of our civilization. His parents were both from the mother-country of England, where the father, Albert Huggett, was born in 1807 and the mother, Elizabeth Taylor, in 1812.

Hosted by Google

They came to America at the ages of twenty-one and eight respectively. As years passed, Miss Taylor reached the age of maturity, her acquaintance with Mr. Huggett ripened into a closer bond and together they founded the family represented by the subject of this brief biographical sketch. The home in which they lived for a number of years was in New York state. In 1855 they came to Michigan where they first located on a farm of eighty acres which Mr. Huggett purchased in Penfield township. After ten years they removed to the property which is now owned, occupied and cultivated by the son who is mentioned above. Here Albert Huggett lived until his death in 1889, the same year in which occurred the demise of his wife. He is remembered as a man of fine principles, one whose religious attitude was most adequately expressed by the tenets of the Church of Dissenters, with which he was connected at Whitechapel, during the days of his residence in England. He was a member of the order of Good Templars in Battle Creek and adopted the political views of the Republican party.

While the home of the family was in Monroe county, New York, the son was born who was named James Harvey Huggett. His systematic mental development was that obtainable in the district schools of New York state and of Penfield township, in the state of his latter youth. His tastes were those of out-door life and of agricultural achievement. He therefore remained with his father, first as his assistant, then as his partner, until, as years passed, he became his successor.

James H. Huggett chose as the domestic companion of his earthly years Miss Cornelia Hackett. Her parents were George W. Hackett of Penfield township and Maria Gibbs Hackett, a native of Lenawee county, Michigan; the former was born December 6, 1825, and died May 13, 1906, the latter's natal day being January 28, 1835, and the date of her death, August 11, 1878. Miss Hackett became Mrs. Huggett on the 6th of December, 1873. In the years of their life together James and Cornelia Huggett have become the parents of five carefully reared children. The eldest, Francis M., is a fireman at Station Number Three, Battle Creek; his wife was formerly Miss Verna Bertha Confer. Daisy Mae Huggett became Mrs. John Davis and resides at Level Park in Calhoun county. Harvey J. Huggett married Ethel Hilton and is also a resident of Level Park. The two youngest memberes of the family, Stephen A. and Reuben A., are still members of the parental household on the homestead farm.

The brothers and sisters of Mr. Huggett include the following: Albert John, whose life is given extended account in the biography of Harry Huggett; Charles C. Huggett of Olympia, Washington, second brother; Agnes Lucinda, who is Mrs. John Smith of Dundee, Michigan; and Anson Mortimer, of Bellevue.

Mr. Huggett is a member of the M. E. church and a Republican. He is not a man who is desirous of holding public office, but has been a faithful member of the school board of his district. Throughout his entire life he has followed the plow and conducted the time-honored operations of general farming. His well-kept farm occupies eighty acres.

Asa C. McCurdy, M. D. With office in the Butcher building, at 30 West Main street, and residence at 445 E. Main street, Dr. McCurdy is engaged in the successful practice of his profession as one of the representative physicians and surgeons of the younger generation in his native city of Battle Creek, where he was born on the 12th of June, 1886. His professional ability and personal popularity are well attested by the

Hosted by Google

consecutive expansion of his practice, which is of substantial and representative order, and he is properly accorded specific recognition in this history of his native county.

Dr. McCurdy is a son of William D. and Elizabeth (Arnold) McCurdy, the former of whom was born at Port Hope, province of Ontario, Canada, of staunch Irish lineage, and the latter of whom was born at Marcellus, Cass county, Michigan, where their marriage was solemnized in September, 1883. William D. McCurdy was reared and educated in his native province and as a young man he came to Michigan, where he was continuously identified with railroad activities until the time of his death. He was employed in the shops of the Grand Trunk Railway at Battle Creek for a number of years and eventually became a locomotive engineer. He was engineer on a limited passenger train between Battle Creek and Chicago at the time when his life's labors ended, and was a most valued, efficient and trusted employe of the Chicago & Grand Trunk Railway Company, his service as a passenger engineer having been initiated in 1893, at the time of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago, when extra train service was instituted over the lines of the Grand Trunk. Mr. McCurdy's death occurred at the Nichols Memorial Hospital, in Battle Creek, on the morning of May 7, 1912, after an illness of but three weeks' duration. He was one of the most prominent engineers in the employ of the Grand Trunk and was very popular among his wide circle of friends. He was a man of sterling character and most buoyant disposition, and was generous and considerate, and won the high regard of all with whom he came in contact. He was affiliated with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Order of Moose; was a Republican in his political allegiance, and held membership in the First Methodist Episcopal church of Battle Creek, of which his widow likewise is a devout adherent. He established his home in Battle Creek in 1880, and here continued to reside until his death. Of the three children Dr. Asa C. of this review, is the eldest; Anna E. remains with her widowed mother, as does also William A.. who is in attendance at Battle Creek schools.

Dr. McCurdy gained his early educational discipline in the public schools of Battle Creek and was graduated in the high school as a member of the class of 1904. He then entered the medical department of the University of Michigan, in which celebrated institution he was graduated in 1908 and from which he received his well earned degree of Doctor of Medicine. In order to fortify himself further for the active and exacting duties of his chosen vocation he thereafter passed one year as house physician in the Erie County Hospital, in the city of Buffalo, New York, where he gained valuable clinical experience. During the following year he held the position of assistant surgeon for the Lackawanna Steel Company, at Lackawanna, New York, and he then returned to Battle Creek, where he initiated the active practice of medicine and surgery on the 1st of July, 1910. He is recognized as a specially skilful surgeon and is a close and appreciative student of the best in the standard and periodical literature of his profession. He holds membership in the Calhoun County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, besides which he is affiliated with the Phi Beta Pi medical fraternity, with which he became identified while a student at the University of Michigan. He holds membership in the local organizations of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks and the Order of Moose, is a Republican in his political proclivities, and resides with his mother in the attractive family homestead, at 445 E. Main street.

Hosted by Google

NEWTON E. RETALLICK. A busy, useful and eventful career has been that of this well known citizen and substantial business man of Battle Creek, where he conducts a large and prosperous enterprise in the handling of all kinds of real estate and as representative of a number of the leading insurance companies doing business in Michigan. His is one of the most extensive and prosperous insurance agencies in Calhoun county, and he also maintains a department for the extension of financial loans on approved real estate security. Through thorough knowledge of his chosen lines of endeavor he has won distinctive precedence and success and he is now recognized as one of the leading real estate and insurance men of his home county, where he has secure place in popular confidence and esteem. He has been a resident of Battle Creek for more than thirty years and is a scion of one of the sterling pioneer families of the Wolverine state.

Mr. Retallick was born on a farm in Climax township, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, on the 3d of June, 1857, and is a son of John Truscott Retallick and Hilinda (Newton) Retallick, who were numbered among the early settlers in that township, where the father became a prosperous agriculturist and stock-grower. He continued to be identified with these great basic industries throughout his entire active career and was sixty-nine years of age at the time of his death, which occurred with but slight premonition, in March, 1904, in the court house at Marshall, the judicial center of Calhoun county, where he had accompanied his son Newton E., of this review, for the purpose of transacting certain business. Six children, three sons and three daughters were born of this union. The mother is living in Climax Village and her age is seventy-five years.

Newton E. Retallick was reared under the invigorating discipline of the home farm, where he early learned the lessons of practical industry, and in the meanwhile he duly availed himself of the advantages of the common schools of the locality and period. He was an appreciative student and made good use of his opportunities, as is shown by the fact that when nineteen years of age he proved himself eligible for pedagogic honors. During five winter terms he was a successful teacher in the district schools, a portion of the time in Kalamazoo county and the remainder in Calhoun county. In the spring of 1881 he was elected township superintendent of schools of Climax township, Kalamazoo county, and in that year he assisted in the election of the first county superintendent of schools for that county, under the new laws of the state, the incumbent for the first term having been chosen by the township superintendents and later elections having been of popular order. After serving as township superintendent for somewhat less than one year Mr. Retallick resigned his office, and assumed the position of brakeman on the Chicago & Grand Trunk Railway. Under these conditions he removed his family to Battle Creek in September, 1881, and here he has since maintained his home. After serving as brakeman for eighteen months Mr. Retallick was promoted to the position of conductor of a freight train, and after holding this position nearly two years he abandoned railroad work and became agent for the underwriting of life and accident insurance. A year later he engaged in the grocery business on East Main street, Battle Creek, and though he soon adopted an exclusively cash policy, in the face of dire predictions on the part of his friends and other business men, he made the enterprise a profitable one under this system. He retired from the retail grocery trade after a period of three years and accepted a position with the Canada & St. Louis Railroad, whose line is now known as the Battle Creek division of the Michigan Central Railroad. At the expiration of ten months he again entered the service of the Grand Trunk Railroad and was soon given the position of conductor, in which

Hosted by Google

he continued to serve for twelve years, his last trip having been made in April, 1902. He was in a number of railway wrecks during his long period of careful and effective service, and on two occasions he narrowly escaped death. In 1899 he was in a serious collision at South Bend, Indiana, the patent couplers on his train having pulled apart when the train was running at a speed of fifty miles an hour, and the rear end of the train having crashed into the front section. He was on the steps of a coach in the rear section and in the impact was rendered unconscious and reported killed. He did not regain consciousness for two and one-half hours and when his wife arrived on the scene the next day she did not expect to find him alive.

While still actively identified with railway work Mr. Retallick began making a special study of insurance business in all lines, and in April, 1902, he again turned his attention to this field of enterprise, in which his success has been unqualified and substantial. He is agent for the following named life-insurance companies: The Old Line Bankers' Life Insurance Company, of Lincoln, Nebraska; the Wisconsin National Life Insurance Company, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin; the Aetna, of Hartford, Connecticut; and the American Surety Company, of New York. He is the only agent in Battle Creek who does insurance underwriting on live stock, and in this line he represents the National Live Stock Insurance Company, of Indianapolis, Indiana. He is also local agent for the following named fire and accident companies: Fireman's Underwriters, of Newark, New Jersey; Northwestern National, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Glens Falls, of New York; National Ben Franklin Lumber Insurance Company, of New York; and the Continental Casualty, of Chicago. It is probable that few if any other insurance agents in Michigan have contracts with a larger number of companies than has Mr. Retallick. He further is agent for the New Jersey Plate Glass Insurance Company and the Fidelity & Deposit Company of Maryland, each of which give insurance against burglary on banks, residences and other properties, and the former indemnity on general accidents to plate glass.

In September, 1905, Mr. Retallick expanded the scope of his enterprise by engaging also in the real estate business, in which he formed a partnership with Michael H. Vernon, under the firm name of Vernon & Retallick. The alliance was dissolved on the 15th of February, 1909, and Mr. Retallick has since conducted an individual enterprise in this important department, his son being his effective assistant in the handling of the large volume of business of which he is the executive head. He has never lacked in independence and self-reliance. Mr. E. P. Boggs is the sales manager for Mr. Retallick. He has the most complete general insurance office in the city and his real estate operations are of broad scope, including the handling of both urban and farm property, the renting of farms, residences, business places, and collection of rents. His son, Eldred A. has general supervision of outside work in the insurance department of the business, collection of rents, etc.

In politics Mr. Retallick gives his allegiance to the Republican party, and while he has never been ambitious for public office his civic loyalty has never been lacking, so that he proved a valuable member of the board of aldermen of Battle Creek, to which he was elected in 1903, as representative of the Fifth ward. He was made chairman of the water-works and sewer committee, and a member of the committees on bridges, public lighting, and building inspection and permits. He proved a progressive and valued member of this municipal body and served as alderman for two years. He and his family are zealous members of the First Methodist Episcopal church in their home city and he has been a trustee of the same for more than thirty years, besides which he served for some

Hosted by Google

time as classleader. Mr. Retallick has long been identified with the Order of Railway Conductors, and he has filled nearly all of the offices in the local division of the same, being its legislative representative at the time of this writing, in 1912. He is also affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of the Modern Maccabees and the Independent Order of Foresters. Reverting to here to his connection with the Order of Railway Conductors, it may be noted that in November, 1903, he was elected chief conductor of Division No. 6, and, in company with his wife he attended the convention of the grand division, at Detroit; as did he later at Denver, Colorado, though he was not a delegate to the latter assembly. He is the owner of valuable realty in Battle Creek, including his handsome residence, at 251 Main street, east, and the substantial two-story brick business block at 247 Main street, east, the latter having been erected by him in 1888.

On the 17th of October, 1878, at Climax, Kalamazoo county, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Retallick to Miss Eunice Ann Eldred, who was born and reared in that county and who is a daughter of the late John A. and Polly J. (Peckham) Eldred. The former passed the closing years of his life at Charleston township, Kalamazoo county, having devoted his active career to farming. His widow resides in Battle Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Retallick have two children, both of whom were born and reared in Battle Creek. Edith Blanche, who was graduated in the high school as a member of the class of 1903, is now the wife of Edward C. Galloway, of Battle Creek; and Eldred Austin is associated with his father in business, as has already been noted in this context.

Mr. Retallick is deeply appreciative of the manifold attractions of his native land and has indulged himself and his family in extensive travel in the various sections of the United States, believing it the proper policy to "see America first." In 1889, in company with his wife and daughter, he made an extended trip through the west, and they visited the principal points of interest in Colorado, including Canyon City, where the excursion party was tendered a fine banquet by the citizens. Passing through and visiting the leading cities and towns of Utah and Montana, as well as Washington and Oregon, Mr. Retallick and his wife and daughter arrived in Seattle three days prior to the great fire which swept that city. The journey included an interesting trip on Puget Sound, and from Portland the party proceeded by the Mount Shasta route to San Francisco and Sacramento. Returning to Portland, the trip was made up the beautiful Columbia river, and then the return journey came, with short visits in Nebraska and Iowa. Mr. Retallick and his family were absent from home two months and traveled a distance of eight thousand one hundred and fifty miles. Mr. Retallick visited the Centennial exposition, in Philadelphia, in 1876, and incidentally made a trip to Niagara Falls and to points of interest in Canada. In 1893, accompanied by his wife and daughter, he attended the World's Columbian exposition, in Chicago, and about seven years later he and his family made a trip to Niagara Falls and into Canada. In 1905 Mr. Retallick made another extended and most interesting trip through the west and on this occasion he was accompanied by his wife, his mother and his sister. They traversed the entire Pacific coast of the United States and covered a distance of more than eight thousand miles, as had been done sixteen years previously. Incidentally the party attended the great exposition in the city of Portland, and the entire trip was one that proved most interesting and profitable. Mr. Retallick fully appreciates the broadening influence of travel, and has gained a wide knowledge of his native land, so that his admiration for and love of the same have been greatly intensified.

Hosted by Google

WALTER THOMPSON BOBO, M. D. As a member of the medical profession Dr. Bobo early appreciated the advantage of concentration of powers and efforts, and he has been consistently designated as a successful specialist in the treatment of goitre, a disorder that has been a matter of speculation, experimentation and study from the dawn of medical science and one that has baffled the leading physiologists, diagnosticians and medical surgical experts.

Dr. Walter Thompson Bobo is of southern stock, in both the paternal and maternal lines, and he himself claims the Lone Star state as the place of his nativity. He was born in Tarrant county, Texas, on a farm about ten miles east of the city of Fort Worth, on the 31st of January, 1876, and is a son of Joel and Anna (Bell) Bobo, the former of whom was born in Tennessee and the latter in Virginia, both families having been founded in the beautiful southland of our national domain in the pioneer days. Both the paternal and maternal grandparents of Dr. Bobo were numbered among the pioneers of Texas, and there the parents of the doctor were married, his mother having been summoned to the life eternal in 1889, when he was about thirteen years of age. His father, who has for many years been engaged in agriculture and stock-growing in the Lone Star state now resides at Fort Hancock, El Paso county, in which vicinity he has an extensive ranch. His father settled in Texas in the early pioneer days and was the founder of the town of Bedford, Tarrant county. Joel and Anna (Bell) Bobo became the parents of six children, of whom only two attained to adult age,—Dr. Walter Thompson, of this review, and Nora, who is now the wife of William F. Fitch, of Bedford, Texas.

Dr. Bobo gained his earlier educational discipline in the village of Bedford, Texas, and supplemented this by a course in the high school in the city of Fort Worth, after which he pursued higher academic studies in Mineral Wells College, at Mineral Wells, Texas. In preparation for the work of his chosen profession he entered that excellent institution, the Marion-Sims College of Medicine, which is the medical department of the University of St. Louis, Missouri. In this college, as a diligent and appreciative student, he completed the prescribed course and was graduated as a member of the class of 1898, with the well earned degree of Doctor of Medicine. On the 19th of April of the following year was accorded to him by his alma mater a special mark of recognition, the same being a certificate of honorable mention for the high degree of excellence in his examination for the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

Immediately after his graduation Dr. Bobo came to Battle Creek and became associated with the Dr. Peebles Institute of Health. In addition to his interest in the Dr. Peebles Institute of Health, Dr. Bobo is a stockholder and director of the Hygienic Food Company, of Battle Creek, manufacturers of the celebrated "Mapl-Flakes" and other products. In politics he is a staunch Republican and he is a popular member of the Athelstan Club and the Country Club, of which latter he was one of the organizers.

On the 22d of June, 1906, Dr. Bobo was united in marriage to Miss Kathryn V. Hollinger, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, who was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, and who completed her education at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, where her father was a representative business man. Dr. and Mrs. Bobo have a pleasant home at 31 College avenue and are actively identified with the social life of their home city.

MOSES WIGHT WHEELOCK, who for more than twenty years was a resident at Battle Creek and vicinity, where his memory is still held in

Hosted by Google

high respect and honor, was born in Greensboro, Vermont, December 2, 1808. Both he and his ancestors possessed those rugged qualities of physical and moral character which are familiarly associated with the colonial New England people, and it was the vigor and weight of his personality as much as his achievements that gave the late Mr. Wheelock such an influential place in this community.

His parents were Samuel and Betsey E. (Wight) Wheelock. His father, a farmer, moved with his family in 1814 to Athens township, Bradford county, Pennsylvania, being attracted by the glowing advertisements of an English speculator and owner of large tracts of lands in that state. The father was a practical man and taught his son Moses the habits of industry and frugality and of depending on his own efforts. His first hard work was in helping his father clear the land of their Pennsylvania home and fitting the soil for cultivation. The family included eleven children,, eight sons and three daughters, five sons, Ephraim, Elias, Moses, Samuel and Henry being born in Vermont, while the remaining six, Charles, Mary, Sarah, Harriet, Thomas and James, were born in Athens township, Pennsylvania. All these reached maturity except Charles Wight, who died in 1814.

Moses Wheelock's grandfather Wheelock was a colonel in the Revolutionary war, and his grandfather Wight was a man of marked literary attainments, inherited from his English ancestors, who came directly with their name from the Isle of Wight. A very complete and exhaustive history of the Wight family has been compiled by William Ward Wight, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, funds for the publication having been furnished by Sarah Wight Wheelock, the maiden sister of the subject of this sketch. Miss Wheelock was the constant companion and helpmeet of her brother Moses, not only in their Pennsylvania home, where Moses, by his industry and strict frugality acquired quite a fortune, but also in their Michigan home until the time of her death.

After some years spent in clearing land and in farm work, Moses W. Wheelock became interested in manufacturing, his operations along that line including a grist mill, plaster mill, and later a woolen mill. These were located in a small hamet known as Milltown, the water power being furnished by a stream of water named Shepherd's creek from a family of early settlers, the place now being a part of the railroad town of Sayre, Pennsylvania.

Neither Moses nor Sarah Wheelock ever married. After accumulating what in earlier days was considered a good fortune, much of which was made in the manufacture of woolen goods and army blankets during the Civil war, Moses with his sister Sarah moved to Battle Creek in 1872. Having invested several thousand dollars in mortgages and loans, while a resident of the state of Pennsylvania, where six per cent was the legal rate of interest, with a penalty attached to a charge of a higher rate, he yielded to the temptation to transfer his residence and loans to Michigan, where a rate of ten per cent was permitted and easily obtained. He was preceded one year by Simon Morley and family, a Pennsylvania friend, who did much to influence his removal to Michigan, advised him in his Michigan investments and loans, and, as noted hereinafter, was a pallbearer at the funeral of Moses Wheelock.

One of his first investments in Michigan was the purchase of a farm on the old Marshall road, across the Battle Creek river just east of Verona. To this by later purchases were added several adjoining tracts, including the Waldo farm on the north, and what were later known as the Chilson and Wade farms on the south, the whole tract comprising some three hundred and sixty acres. The old homestead, of two hundred and fifty acres, at the death of Moses Wheelock came into the posses-

Hosted by Google

sion of his nephew, Charles H. Wheelock, who was appointed administrator of the estates of both Moses and Sarah Wheelock. While the far-sighted, fortunate real estate investor anticipated the purchase and use of a portion of his farm by the Grand Trunk Railway Company for the location of their shops, he did not live to see the consummation of these anticipations. In 1904 something over one hundred and fifty acres off the south end of the farm was sold to the Grand Trunk Railway Company, on which they have already located extensive railroad shops, one of the largest and most important industries of the city of Battle Creek. Later, in 1906, the north portion of the farm, on which are located the Flowing Wells, was sold to the city of Battle Creek for a source of water supply.

Moses Wight Wheelock was a man of firm religious convictions, and with his sister Sarah was a member for years, until the end of his life, of the Dutch Reformed church, later merged with the Presbyterian church. They both retained their membership in the home church at Athens, Pennsylvania, during their residence in Michigan. He was very devout in his regard for Bible teachings, especially concerning Sunday observance and temperance, and was also severely exacting along these lines of those in his employ. Being possessed of more than ordinary physical strength and with an iron constitution, he was much inclined to tax his physical powers beyond a proper limit, even after he had passed the age of four-score years.

His last illness was the result of over-exertion in a hot August sun, and death came to him on the 13th day of September, 1893, when he was eighty-four years old. He had been a most worthy citizen, had contributed to a number of charitable institutions, and during his residence in Michigan had acquired the esteem of the best people of this vicinity for his fine integrity. The funeral at Verona was largely attended, and the services were conducted by Messrs. Potter, Kulp, Barker and Chapman. The pallbearers were Dr. Rorabacher, Dr. Robertson, H. A. Preston, E. L. North, A. Bramble, and W. J. McMillen. The honorary pallbearers were M. H. Joy, Dr. Wattles, V. P. Collier, William Merritt, John Cooper and S. H. Morley. The remains were taken for burial to Athens, Pennsylvania.

Sarah Wight Wheelock was born in Athens, Bradford county, Pennsylvania, September 18, 1819, and her life was spent in that township until 1871, when she removed with her brother to Battle Creek, where they lived together until separated by death. She died a few months before her brother, on March 25, 1893. During her long residence in Pennsylvania she took an active and prominent interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community. She was generous to the needy, and was always among the first in kindness and benevolence. In early life she united with the Presbyterian church at Athens, and continued a member of this church until her death. Her attachment to the home of her childhood and youth was strong, and she had always hoped to return and spend her last days there. Her interest in and love for her church were especially strong, and she rejoiced in its prosperity and contributed liberally to its support. In her personal life and character she was tender-hearted and ingenious, was simple in her tastes and unostentatious in her manner. She retained her natural cheerfulness and vivacity to the years of her age, and as a noble Christian woman was loved and respected by many friends both old and new. She now rests with other members of the family, and beside her beloved brother, in the family lot at Athens, Pennsylvania.

Hosted by Google

CHARLES H. WHEELOCK. The character of a city as business and home center depends to a very large degree on the enterprise and public spirit of the few men who in every community constitute the leaders in civic affairs. One of these civic leaders in Battle Creek is Mr. Charles H. Wheelock, the up-to-date farmer, real estate man, roofing contractor, and energetic promoter of every movement for the social welfare and solid progress of this vicinity.

Mr. Wheelock was born in Athens township, Bradford county, Pennsylvania, June 6, 1850, and is a nephew of the late Moses W. Wheelock, whose career for many years was closely identified with this city and vicinity, and whose sketch appears on preceding pages. Mr. Wheelock's parents were Henry Wight and Millicent Bradley (Bell) Wheelock. The latter's mother was an Allen and a direct descendant of that Revolutionary hero, Ethan Allen. For many years of his active life Henry W. Wheelock was associated with his brother Moses in the east in the woolen manufacture, and during the war times they had large contracts for the manufacture of army blankets, this being a large factor in the prosperity of their business. Both father and mother died in Pennsylvania, and one of their daughters has erected a memorial chapel in their name at Milltown, Pennsylvania. Two sons and two daughters constituted the family, namely: Lucy Bell Reeves, now deceased; Harriett Newell Angell, wife of Henry Angell, of Waverly, New York; and Joseph Ephraim, of Sayre, Pennsylvania; and the subject of this sketch.

Charles H., who is the only member of the family residing in Battle Creek, was reared in western Pennsylvania, where he attended the public schools, and later graduated from the Waverly Institute, at Waverly, New York. He became identified with a manufacturing business at Wilkes-Barre, and that city was his home previous to his removal to Battle Creek about twenty years ago. His presence here was for the purpose of settling his uncle's estate, and since then this city has been his permanent home.

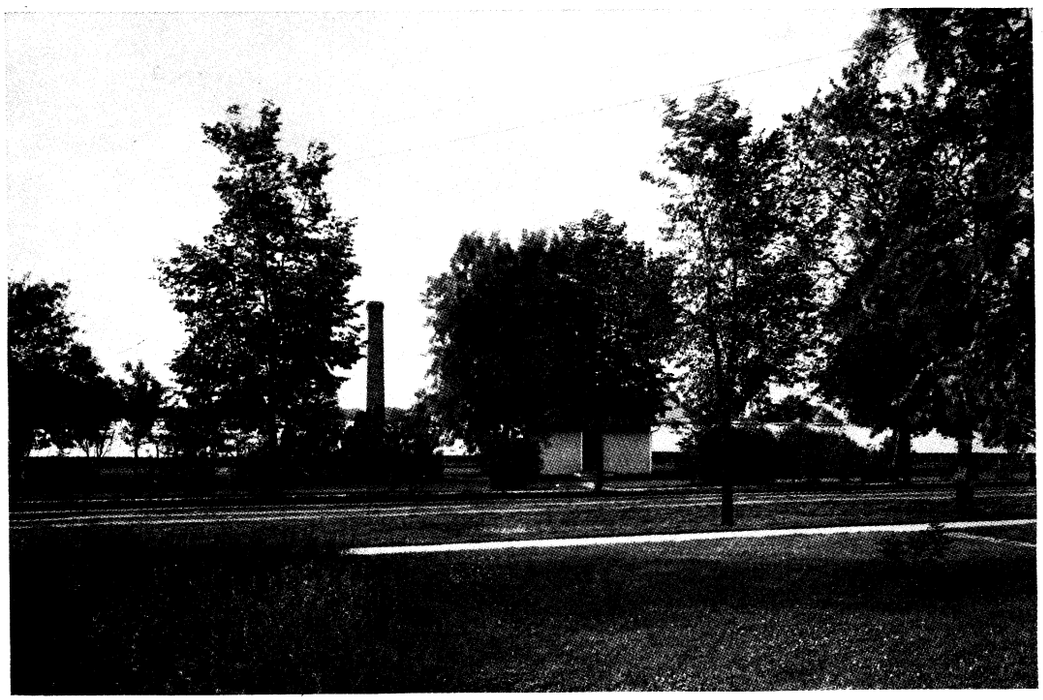
While much of his time has been directed to the care of the property in and about the city, he has also taken a very active share in matters affecting the general welfare of this community. For about three years he gave his services, entirely gratis, to what might be called a social welfare work at the Battle Creek Sanitarium, special features of which were the planning of entertainments for the guests and sight-seeing trips about the city and surrounding country. At the suburb of Elm Lawn he has erected a chapel, after the plan of the chapel erected by his sister in the east, as already mentioned. It is now known as the Elm Lawn Chapel, but will later be called Wheelock's Memorial Chapel.

Two very attractive farms in this vicinity are owned by Mr. Wheelock. One of these, called Pine Lodge, is located between the Flowing Wells and the Grand Trunk shops, and is his present home, his mail service coming over the R. F. D. route No. 5. Originally this was an estate of two hundred and sixty acres, containing the site of the Flowing Wells, and the portion that has been sold will in a few years be included within the city limits. He has also platted a considerable portion of the Pine Lodge farm, which now comprises sixty acres. The other farm, of fifty-four acres, is "The Oaks," situated between Greenfield and Brownlee Park, and is one of the most attractive portions of the landscape about Battle Creek.

Since 1908 Mr. Wheelock has been engaged in business as roofing contractor. He had the contracts for roofing the Sanitarium and a number of other buildings in the city, and has built up his business entirely on his record for first-class, satisfactory work. Originality has been one of the largest factors in the success. Utilizing new ideas of his own

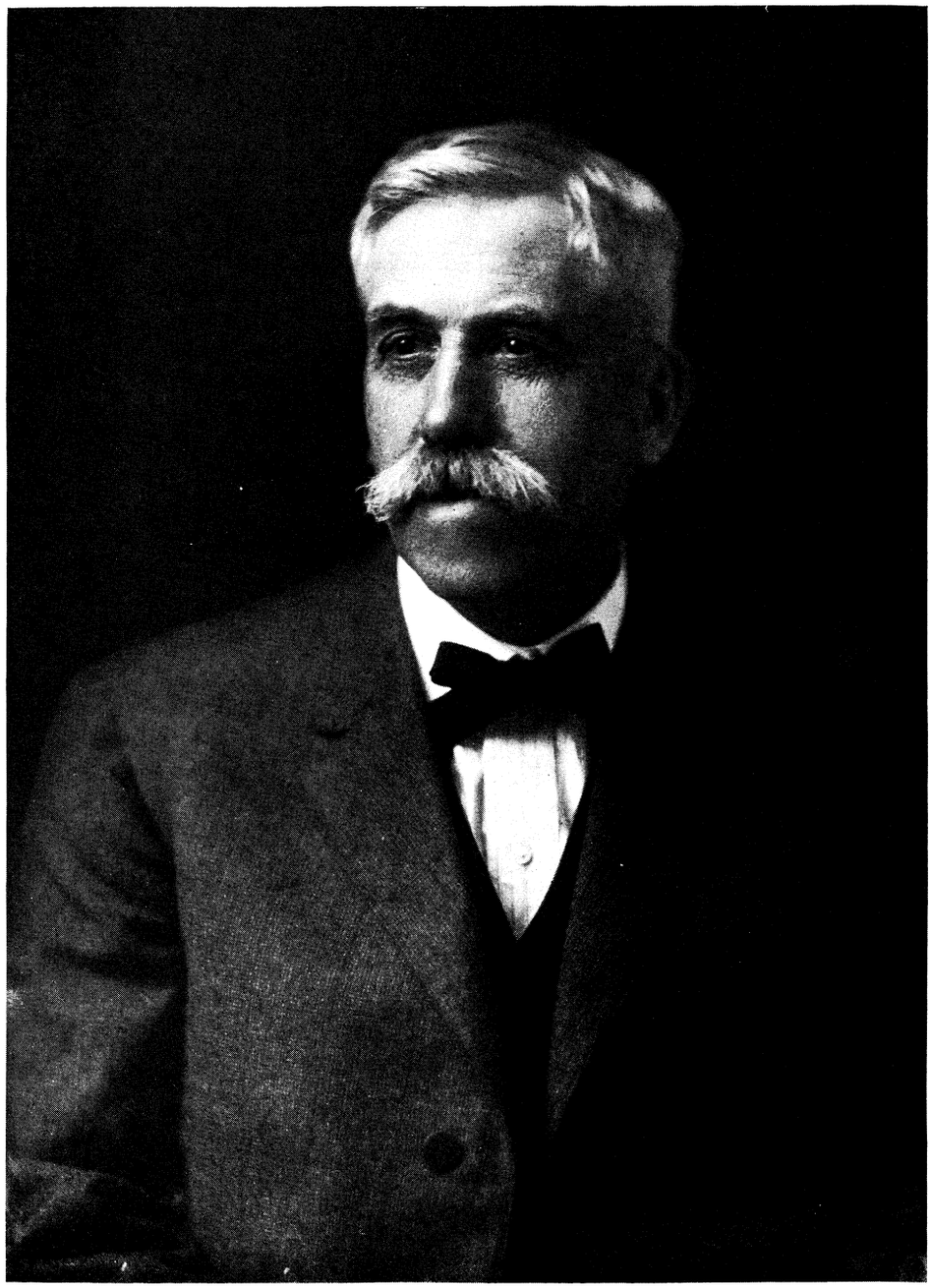
Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



GREENHOUSE OF LEVANT COLE

Hosted by Google



Levant Cole.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

conception, he has never got into a rut, and every enterprise he undertakes has something characteristic about it. He is the originator of all the advertising by which he has brought his business service to the attention of the public.

The roofing business being rather dull in winter seasons, he has undertaken to supply not only his own employes but any other laboring men in the city with work during these months. For that purpose he established, on December 9, 1911, a free employment agency to furnish nish employment of some kind to any who applied for work, the object being to keep mechanics and laborers in the city until such a time as their service would be required in the regular activities of the shops. The agency has been maintained without any cost to those who get work through it, and has proved a boon to many a workman during the past winter. About the first of April, 1912, six hundred and fifty applicants were listed at the agency, and during the previous three months work had been found for 1,200 persons. Such an undertaking is for the best social welfare, and it is services of this kind rendered by individuals which constitute the highest form of good citizenship.

Mr. Wheelock was one of the organizers of the Maple Street M. E. church, of which he is still one of the active members. In July, 1876, he was married to Miss Christine Hutchinson MacCulloch, and they have had a happy married life of more than thirty-five years' duration. Mrs. Wheelock was born at Kingston, Pennsylvania, daughter of William and Christine MacCulloch, both of whom were natives of Scotland and of pure Scotch stock. She was educated in the Bloomsburg Normal School in Pennsylvania. One son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wheelock, Raymond Patterson Wheelock, October 20th, 1879, whose native town was Sayre, Pennsylvania. His education was in the Battle Creek high school, of which he is a graduate. He prepared for college in the private school at Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and later graduated as a mining engineer from the University of California at Berkeley. He is now director and superintendent of the Enterprise Mines at Kingman, Arizona, and is one of the very successful men of his profession. In October, 1905, Raymond P. Wheelock married Gertrude, the daughter of Major Wm. E. Mensch of Kingman, Arizona. Major Wm. E. Mensch has for years been a mine operator.

Raymond has contributed several articles for the prominent mining journals and is the patentee of valuable improvements used in the production of ore.

LEVANT COLE was born in Batavia, New York, on September 30, 1852, and he is the son of Walter and Sophronia (Blanchard) Cole. The paternal ancestors of the Cole family came from Scotland several generations back and established an American branch in the eastern states. The grandfather of Levant Cole removed from Vermont to Western New York in the beginning of the 19th century, and he became one of the pioneer settlers of that locality. He purchased a tract of wild land at Batavia, forming a part of what was known as the "Holland Purchase," and he became an extensive land holder and farmer, being especially active in the early improvements and developing of that section of the country. When the nation became engaged in hostilities with England, he joined the American army and served throughout the war. His son, Walter Cole, the father of the subject of this review, was born in Batavia, and after reaching years of young manhood was married to Sophronia Blanchard as mentioned above. She was a descendant of the Trall family, well known in western New

Hosted by Google

York, Dr. Trall becoming prominent in connection with the conduct of a sanitarium and the water-cure establishment. After his marriage Walter Cole engaged in farming and devoted himself especially to the raising of high grade stock. After a number of years he sold his stock and all equipments to one "Lucky" Baldwin, of Southern California, and at a later date the Cole family removed to Southern California where Walter Cole became a prominent ranchman. While a resident of Batavia, he was long recognized as a leading figure in Republican politics in his section of the state, and he exerted a widespread influence in behalf of the principles of the party to which he gave his support. He was altogether one of the most prominent and popular men in Genesee county, and his removal to California was a distinct loss to the city and county in which he had been born and reared, and where he had reared his family.

In the common schools of Batavia, Levant Cole received his early education, and at the age of sixteen he was graduated from the high school of that place. He thereafter took a course in Eastman's business college at Poughkeepsie, New York, and then became connected with the florist's business as an employe of the firm of Storrs & Harrison of Painesville, Ohio, a small beginning which was later to develop into his life work. His next position was with James Vick of Rochester, New York, then and for many years after one of the most noted florists and nurserymen in the country. Here he had charge of the propogating department, a most responsible position, which he held successfully until 1882, when he severed his connection with the company and removed to St. Joseph, Missouri, where he was employed in a similar line of business. His health failed him in the Missouri climate, and Mr. Cole came to Battle Creek in 1888, here forming a partnership with John W. McCrea, with the firm name of McCrea & Cole. Mr. Cole had charge of the building of the first greenhouse at 87 Wendell street, a small plant at first, but enlarged to meet the growing demands of the business. On April 10, 1900, Mr. Cole purchased his partner's interest and he has since conducted the business alone, and he now has the largest greenhouse in Battle Creek, and one of the largest in the state. It is splendidly equipped for the handling of his representative and ever increasing business, and his long connection with this line of enterprise has given Mr. Cole a thorough knowledge and understanding of the best methods in all the practical details of the business. He sells to local trade, both wholesale and retail, and ships to surrounding towns within a radius of one hundred miles. He makes a specialty of roses and other cut flowers, and in the nursery line he handles shrubbery as the principal item of his stock. To roses, cut flowers and plants he gives the best part of his time and attention, and he is wonderfully successful in the nurture of them. His specials in the rose family are the White Killarney, the Chatney and the Richmond. His nursery is located in the Davidson addition, and he owns practically an entire block. He also owns an eighty acre farm in Pennfield township, where he has a fine summer home, at which the family frequently spend their summers. It is known as Deep Lake Farm, that being the name of the Lake on which it is situated.

In 1883 Mr. Cole married Miss Ada Merry of Geneva, New York. They have three children, Walter B., Fannie R. and Howard B. They were the parents of four children, but the eldest, Mrs. Margery Agnew, died in 1905.

The family attend the Maple street Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mrs. Cole is an earnest member.

Hosted by Google

JOHN H. STEPHENS. The real history of the Civil war is written most deeply on the hearts of those who participated in that mighty conflict. The sacrifices of the volunteers did not cease when peace was declared for none of them came out of the war as they entered it. If a few were fortunate enough to escape bullet, shell and imprisonment, there still lingered seeds of disease, shattered nerves and other ailments, which will cling to many as long as life lasts. For this and many other reasons the survivors of the Civil war are regarded with such veneration and given the honored respect of the nation they helped to save. In this connection extended mention should be made of John H. Stephens, a Civil war veteran, who has suffered greatly during his life from disease contracted while a prisoner in the horriible Southern prison camps. He is now engaged in the real estate, insurance and pension business, and acts in the capacity of county agent of the State Board of Charities and Corrections. Mr. Stephens was born June 29, 1845, in the town of Gates, Monroe county, New York, and is a son of John and Lucy M. (Baldwin) Stephens. John Stephens was a farmer by occupation, and in the spring of 1859 came to Barry county, Michigan, where he accumulated a farm of 110 acres in Assyria township. There he spent the remainder of his life, as did also his wife. They were the parents of six sons and one daughter, two of these children dying in infancy, and two still survive: John H. and Charles M., both of Battle Creek.

John H. Stephens received his education in the district schools of Barry county, Michigan, and was reared to the vocation of an agriculturist, which he was following at the outbreak of the Civil war. He was one of the first to enlist for service in the Union ranks, becoming a member of Company A, First Michigan Sharpshooters, under Capt. L. C. Rhiner. On June 17th, 1864, after having seen considerable service, he was taken prisoner at Petersburg and incarcerated at Andersonville for five months. He was subsequently sent to Savannah for one month, and then was at Millen for a month, and when the war was closed was honorably discharged, June 28, 1865, from the hospital at Baltimore, Md. With his health utterly shattered, he returned to Barry county and resumed farming, in which he was engaged until 1886, when he was compelled to give up this vocation, finding that he lacked the bodily strength and health to continue. During the next eight years he was in the auditor general's office, but since April, 1901, he has been engaged in the real estate, fire insurance and pension business, and in March, 1912, was appointed by Gov. Osborn as county agent for the State Board of Charities and Corrections. In political matters Mr. Stephens is a Republican. He is a member of Lansing Lodge No. 33, F. & A. M., and is serving his second term as commander of Farragut Post, G. A. R., No. 32, and belongs also to the Order of the Eastern Star.

Mr. Stephens married Miss Jennie E. Mercer, of Rock Elm, Pierre county, Wisconsin, September 1, 1881, she having been born at Hartford, Wisconsin, and educated there. One son has been born to this union, Charles M., born in Battle Creek, February 2, 1890, graduated from the high school and spent one year in the Michigan Agricultural College, and now at home taking a course in vocal and instrumental music, under Prof. Carl Goff. The home of the family is situated at No. 242 Calhoun street, and Mr. Stephens maintains offices at No. 14 West Main street. During the time when this country was in the throes of vicious warfare he proved himself a valiant and patriotic defender of its flag, and in times of peace has shown himself to be just and capable, faithful and public-spirited. During his residence in Battle Creek he has

Hosted by Google

drawn around him a wide circle of friends, who recognize and appreciate his many admirable qualities of character.

CHARLES M. STEPHENS. The senior member of the Stephens & Haughey Real Estate and Loan Company at Battle Creek has been engaged in a career of varied and interesting activities beginning when he was a boy in years.

Though only fourteen years old when the Civil war broke out between the states, his ardor and patriotism could not long be restrained. On the 28th of December, 1862, he enlisted as a musician in Company A of the First Michigan Sharpshooters, and saw an eventful service of two years and ten months. He was one of the intrepid drummer boys of the Union army, and it was a service fully as hazardous and requiring as much courage as that which involved the carrying of a musket. On June 29, 1864, he was advanced by promotion to aide-de-camp on General Wilcox's staff. At the siege of Petersburg he was wounded, and spent three months in hospital at City Point, Virginia. For about three months he filled the post of call drummer on the old hospital boat Columbia. After that he returned to his regular command at Petersburg, and was with the first regiment that entered that city. For several months after the final surrender of the southern armies he continued in the service, and was not mustered out until October 18, 1865, the muster out being held at the Delano House in Washington. Among the survivors of the great rebellion few have more spirited reminiscences of its scenes than Mr. Stephens, and he is also among the youngest of the old Grand Army men.

Charles M. Stephens was born in the town of Gates, Monroe county, New York, August 18, 1847, so that he was a little more than eighteen years of age when he returned from the south as a seasoned veteran of many campaigns. His father, John Stephens, a native of England, came alone to this country at the age of sixteen, having lost his father a number of years before and his mother following him to America. He settled in Monroe county, New York, where he afterwards married Miss Lucy M. Baldwin. As a farmer he was successful and acquired a good property in that county. Later he bought a farm and settled in Orleans county, New York. Unfortunately he sold this property and invested the proceeds in the Erie Canal & Boat Association, the venture which practically bankrupted him. After this disaster he came to Michigan in 1859, the following year settling in Assyria township, Barry county, where he bought a hundred and sixty-five acres of raw land with what he had saved from the wreck of his fortune. Beginning at the bottom, before his death he had again reached the position of a prosperous citizen. He was a very progressive and energetic character, and to this he owed the success of his life. He died on his homestead in Assyria township, in 1881, and his wife passed away in 1883. Two of their children are now living, Charles M. and John H., the latter being also a prominent citizen of Battle Creek.

Mr. Stephens whose early years were spent in the different localities where his parents resided received part of his schooling in his native Monroe county and also attended the district schools of Assyria township. His school days were interrupted by his enlistment in the army, and when he returned in 1865 he entered the old Battle Creek high school, where his educational equipment was finished. He began his business career at Kalamazoo, where for two years he was clerk in the Kalamazoo House. Then for a year he had charge of a restaurant in Rochester, New York, with twelve men under him, this restaurant being run in connection with the Pert Hotel of that city. From there he re-

Hosted by Google

turned to Michigan and for several years was in the employ of the Haines & Hutchins Company in Jackson. He was there during the political campaign for Grant's second term, and he furnished the martial music on the many occasions of that campaign.

Mr. Stephens took up his permanent residence in Battle Creek in 1885. For a number of years he was engaged in the mercantile and agricultural implement business, the firm being Stephens & Manchester. The wound received during the war compelled him to retire from business for two years. In 1894 he established the real estate business with which his name has since been identified, and he is the oldest real estate dealer in the city. His first partner was J. Bryan Sperry, under the name of Stephens & Sperry, which continued until the latter went on the road as representative for the Adventists. Henry Pettengill then joined him for three years until his death, after which H. J. Iden was part of the firm of Stephens & Iden until 1909, when Mr. Iden's death occurred. Mr. A. M. Smith was his partner up to December, 1911, at which date the firm was constituted in its present form by the admission of James R. Haughey as the junior member. Their business comprises a general real estate and rental, collection and loans, and they are local agents for lands in Oklahoma, Texas, Florida, Dakota and in Alberta, Canada. Their Florida lands are in De Soto county, known as the Arcadia Groves. The firm represent several fire insurance companies, and also do a bonding business through a Detroit firm. The offices of the firm have been at 24 East Main street since 1905.

With his many friends of the war Mr. Stephens keeps his associations through membership in the Farragut Post No. 32, G. A. R. He is also a member of the "Just Enough Club" and of the Loyal Order of Moose. He and his brother John are both Republicans, although their father was a Democrat. He is a member of the Spiritualist church of Battle Creek. One of the local organizations to which he devotes much attention is the Battle Creek Drum and Trumpet Corps, which he founded, and of which he is secretary and treasurer, and W. H. Eldred president. This Corps, which furnishes very stirring martial music, consists in instrumentation of twelve snare drums, two bass drums and four to eight bugles and trumpets. Mr. Stephens is owner of a considerable amount of city real estate and farm property in different parts of the state, and also has a Missouri farm of one hundred and fifty-five acres. His residence is at 234 Calhoun street.

Mr. Stephens was married April 15, 1874, to Miss Phebe A. Cole, daughter of William W. Cole, one of the pioneer residents of Assyria township, Barry county. Mrs. Stephens was born at Holly, Oakland county, this state, and received her education in the district schools of Assyria township and in the Battle Creek high school. Three children were born to their union. William M. is a resident of Battle Creek. Don H. at the time of the Spanish-American war enlisted as a private in Company D of the Thirty-second Michigan Volunteers, and a few days after his return from the campaign his death occurred as a result of the tropical hardships. Vera H., the only daughter, is the wife of Harry C. McCamly, timekeeper for the Postum Cereal Company, Ltd., and a member of one of the oldest Calhoun county families. Both the sons were born in Bellevue township, Eaton county, and the daughter is a native of Le Roy township, this county.

PATRICK HAYES. A venerable and highly esteemed citizen of Marshall, Calhoun county, Patrick Hayes was for many years an active factor in advancing the mercantile prosperity of the city, by his excellent character and straightforward business course fully establishing himself

Hosted by Google

in the confidence of his fellow-associates, and having achieved success as a merchant is now living retired from business cares. A native of Ireland, he was born in County Cork, and there received his early education, for a time attending a select school.

Immigrating to America when quite young, Mr. Hayes was variously employed for a few years in different parts of Michigan. Locating in Marshall, Calhoun county, in 1863, he learned the cooper's trade, which he followed for two years. Desirous then of changing his occupation, he entered the dry goods establishment of Mr. William Martin, who is still living, and clerked for him a year. Entering then the employ of J. Cronin, Jr., he was for twenty-one years associated with one of the largest dry goods stores of Marshall as general manager, filling the position with credit to himself, and to the entire satisfaction of Mr. Cronin. The ensuing four years Mr. Hayes was in the employ of Mr. E. J. Murphy, a well-known dry goods merchant, and was afterwards successfully engaged in the dry goods business on his own account, building up a large and remunerative patronage. Having accumulated a competency, and becoming somewhat advanced in years, Mr. Hayes disposed of his stock of goods, and is now enjoying a well-earned leisure.

During the Civil war, Mr. Hayes was a member of the Squirrel Hunters and went with them into Kentucky in pursuit of General Kirby Smith and after the scare was over returned to his home in Ohio. Politically Mr. Hayes is a Democrat, and interested in public matters. For four years he served as alderman from the Fourth Ward of Marshall, and from 1907 until 1911, served as justice of the peace.

Mr. Hayes married Miss Isabelle McCary, who was born in Canada, a daughter of William McCary, a native of Ireland. Eleven children have been born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, five sons and six daughters. The daughters are all married, with the exception of two. The sons are as follows: Daniel J., of Galesburg, Michigan; Edward D., of Detroit; Thomas W., of Indianapolis; and Lewis J., with Marshall Field & Company, in Chicago, and one son died in childhood.

WILLIAM H. FARRINGTON. Enthusiastic appreciation in no small degree is accorded the man whose name stands as the title of this article. The efficiency and completeness in all details of the police department of this municipality have not been achieved by accident. Intelligence, conscientiousness and the power to execute what he plans are characteristics of Battle Creek's Chief of Police, William H. Farrington, an account of whose family history and personal career will be of particular interest.

His parents were Jesse and Lydia (Lewis) Farrington, who were living in Pennville, Jay county, Indiana, when this son was born. On the old homestead he spent his boyhood and most of the schooldays allotted to him. He was ten years of age when, in 1865, the family removed to Harmonia, Michigan. After their subsequent removal to Battle Creek, young William Farrington at the age of eighteen accepted a position as painter for Nichols and Shepard, with whom he remained for ten years. In 1884 he went to see for himself the charms and possibilities of that much-talked-of west region. After spending about a year in Washington—then a territory—in Oregon and in California, he eventually decided that after all there was no state that pleased him so much as Michigan. He returned to this state, where he began farming, which vocation he continued successfully for about five years, meanwhile buying and selling several pieces of property. In 1889 he once more made Battle Creek his home, taking charge of the painting depot for the Hal-

Hosted by Google

laday and Lewis Company, contractors, and continuing this engagement for two years.

During the years in which his employment has been reviewed, Mr. Farrington had in various ways evinced interest in municipal affairs. While he was an employee of Nichols and Shepard he had become a member of the Volunteer Fire Department and after a year or two joined the Union Hose Team, allowed $25 a year by the city. From 1876 to 1884 he was connected with it and during that time had the rather thrilling experience of acting as pipeman for the famous Potter House fire.

In the spring of 1892 he left the employ of Halladay to accept the appointment as a member of the police force, which office he received at the hands of (Mayor) Joseph L. Cox, and thereafter acted as patrolman for five years. In 1897 he reverted to his vocation of painting, this time as an employe for Lewis and Sons. In April of 1898 when a change was made in the city administration, Mr. Farrington received from Miles Curtis the appointment to his present position as chief of police, which office he has ever since held and the duties of which he has discharged with such credit to himself and his subordinates.

During his incumbency he has made every effort possible to divorce the police department from politics, believing that incumbency in such office should depend upon the qualifications of the individual man in question in each case and not upon his party allegiance. Never during his administration as Chief has Mr. Farrington based a man's appointment upon support of any particular party, and Battle Creek today can boast of a police department which is widely acknowledged to be one of the most efficient in the state. Nor can any city in Michigan show a more complete and convenient service than this. It contains, for example, twenty-one more boxes for policemen's reports than any other city of three hundred thousand. A feature of these boxes that is both unique here and exceptionally convenient is the presence in each box of keys, making it possible for citizens as well as officers to call up the department from these points in case of need. This is not done in any other city of the United States. In all lines of his supervision, Chief of Police Farrington has tried always to lead, never to follow, other systems. His one purpose has been to accomplish the best protection possible, for the welfare of the citizens of Battle Creek. In January of 1912 a large auto patrol was added to the police equipment and residents know that any other feature that may facilitate this department will be promptly supplied by the fertile mind and able hand of Chief Farrington. It is interesting to add that Mrs. Farrington, who was formerly Miss Minnie B. Camp of Marshall and the daughter of George and Catherine (Moore) Camp, is the capable and kindly matron at the police headquarters of Battle Creek.

The second generation of William Farrington's family consists of one son, W. Roy Farrington, who was born in Allegan county on September 25, 1886. He attended the city high school and has also had the advantages of a business course in the Michigan Business and Normal College of this place. He is a bookkeeper for the Battle Creek gas company. In 1908 he was married to Miss Nina B. Nichols of Battle Creek; they are the parents of one son, Norman. Mr. Roy Farrington, is exceptionally free from such habits as the use of tobacco and liquors. His residence is 117 Highway street.

Chief Farrington is a member of the Knights of Pythias here and also of the organizations of the Odd Fellows, and the Maccabees. Mrs. Farrington holds membership in the Lake Avenue society and in other clubs of Battle Creek. The family residence is at 25 Post avenue.

Although William H. Farrington is a man who in his municipal ac-

Hosted by Google

tivities disregards party in the matter of appointments of this sort, he nevertheless believes in the principles of the Republican party and acts upon them with great consistency when making use of his franchise. His first presidential ballot was cast for James A. Garfield in 1880.

JAY L. MARSHALL, whose business is "everything in real estate," has been successfully identified with the business community of Battle Creek since 1901. He is one of the most progressive and enterprising real estate men in southern Michigan, is a liberal advertiser, and not only does a large volume of business, but also a business whose character results in the permanent improvement and benefit of the city and vicinity. As a medium for the exchange of realty he leads all the real estate men in Battle Creek, and his reputation in all lines of the business is based on reliable dealing and high-class methods.

Mr. Marshall is a native of Minnesota, and was born at Root River on Thursday, April 4, 1867. His parents were James A. and Nancy B. (Squires) Marshall. His father was a native of New Hampshire and the mother of New York, and they were married in Iowa. The father was a machinist, engineer and "lime burner" or master mechanic, and his death occurred in Iowa, and his widow still resides at Marcus, that state. Besides Jay L. there are three other children: Charles, of Lowell, Arizona; Mrs. Arthur Reed, of Hopkinton, Iowa; and Mrs. Charles Fay, of Anoka, Minnesota.

Jay L. Marshall, the only member of the family to make Battle Creek his home, was educated at Hopkinton, Iowa, attending the Lenox College at that place. For a number of years his business was traveling salesman and contractor. He dealt in building material at Hopkinton four years, and for twelve years he represented the Prudential Life Insurance Company of New York, for ten years of that time being assistant superintendent of the company. In that business he was located for varying periods of time at St. Louis, Alton, Illinois, Grand Rapids, and at Battle Creek. He has been a resident of this city since 1901, and for about six years continued in the insurance business, finally selling his fire insurance interest business which he had built up from this headquarters.

He then engaged in the real estate business, and as already mentioned deals in everything that comes under that head, being both an independent operator and also broker. Among his enterprises, he owns and conducts a fruit farm of twenty-five acres two and a half miles east of the city in Emmett township. This is a property in which he takes justifiable pride. It contains seven hundred apple trees, seven hundred peach trees, one hundred pear trees, two hundred cherry trees, two hundred plum trees, two thousand grape vines, two thousand raspberry bushes and approximately five thousand strawberry plants. This in itself is a big business. In the city of Battle Creek he is buying and selling property all the time.

His first two years of connection with the real estate business, Mr. Marshall was in the employ of Alfred E. Paulsen. Later he and Herbert E. Butler bought the business and continued under the name of Marshall & Butler. Herbert W. Taft bought Butler's interest, but after a short time Mr. Marshall acquired the entire business. His office is at 8 East Main street.

December 19, 1891, Mr. Marshall married Miss Nida E. Jackson, of Delhi, Iowa. She was born and educated in Delaware county, Iowa. They are the parents of one son, G. Russell, who was born at Hopkinton, Iowa, November 19, 1892. After being educated in Grand Rapids and in the Battle Creek high school, he learned the art of photo-engraving

Hosted by Google

and is now employed in that work with the Gage Printing Company, Ltd., of Battle Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall reside at 128 Fountain street West. They have membership in the First Methodist church of this city.

CHARLES J. ARGUBRIGHT. So attractive, cogent and effective is the presentation of facts in the literature issued in the annual catalogue and other brochures of the Michigan Business and Normal College, of Battle Creek, that even a cursory survey of the same cannot fail to give definite voucher for the high standing of the institution and the unequivocal success of its work. It has been consistently pronounced the only real "actual-business" training school in southern Michigan, and its functions in every department are practical and benignant. In this review of the career of the president of this staunch institution, it is not necessary to enter into details concerning the advantages offered and general fine equipment of the college, for adequate information along these lines is to be gained by application for the admirable descriptive literature sent forth, but it is established beyond contradiction that no institution of similar character in the entire state can claim precedence over this, and it is a matter of pride to the metropolis of Calhoun county that so noteworthy a school is here maintained, the same having been established in 1882, incorporated in 1896 and reorganized in 1898. The college maintains the ablest of instructors in each department, occupies five thousand two hundred and eighty square feet of floor space, gives most scrupulous individual instruction and has no vacation intervals, so that new pupils can enter at any time throughout the entire year. Tuition rates are reasonable and positions are guaranteed to graduates. The unqualified testimonials given by those who have availed themselves of the privileges of the college and have proved valuable factors in the domain of practical business activities, afford ample evidence of the excellence of the work in all departments, and the school is recognized as a most valuable addition to the educational system of the county and the state of Michigan.

Charles J. Argubright claims the Hawkeye state as the place of his nativity and is a representative of one of its sterling pioneer families. He was born in Linn county, Iowa, on the 2d of November, 1870, and is a son of John T. and Lois M. (Brown) Argubright, the former of whom was born at La Salle, Illinois, July 3, 1838, and the latter at Brookfield, New York, July 12, 1839. The father became one of the prominent contractors and builders of Northwestern Iowa in the pioneer days and maintained his home in Sioux county, that state, from 1873 until 1903, when he removed to the state of Washington, where he continued to be identified with the same line of enterprise during the residue of his active career, his death having occurred at Everett, that state, on the 5th of July, 1911, and his widow being now a resident of Victoria, British Columbia. She is a woman of special culture, as she has ever been an appreciative reader of the best literature and has notably excellent memory, so that she has been able to absorb and assimilate the knowledge gained through reading and study, her husband likewise having been a man of superior mental ken. Thus it may well be understood that the subject of this review had excellent advantages in the very environment and associations of his home life as a boy and youth, and his heritage from an honored father and mother is one of which he is deeply appreciative. He is the only son in a family of four children, and two of his sisters are living.

Charles J. Argubright is indebted to the public schools of his native state for his early educational discipline, and this was effectually sup-

Hosted by Google

plemented by a course in Hull Academy, at Hull, Iowa, in which institution he was graduated when seventeen years of age. In the same school he also completed a post-graduate course of two years in university work, and in 1892 he was graduated in the Iowa Commercial College, at Davenport, Iowa. In the following year, after having determined to devote his attention to pedagogic work along the line of practical business training, he went to Helena, the capital of the state of Montana, where he was a teacher in the Helena Business College for the ensuing two years. During the following year he was a member of the faculty of the Rock Island Business University, at Rock Island, Illinois, and thereafter he held for one year the position of bookkeeper and cashier for the National Packing Company, in that city. He then returned to Helena, Montana, where he was executive head of the Helena Business College for eight months, and during the ensuing year he was in charge of the Woodbine Normal and Commercial College, at Woodbine, Iowa. He then came to Battle Creek, in 1897, to accept the position of traveling and editorial representative of the Ellis Publishing Company, but within a short time thereafter he purchased the Krug Business College, of which he thus became the proprietor in January, 1898. On the 17th of that month he effected a thorough reorganization of the institution, the title of which was changed to the present form, the Michigan Business and Normal College. His thorough training in the line of work to which he has devoted the major part of his active career has been supplemented by admirable executive and administrative ability, and thus he has been able to upbuild one of the best business colleges in the state. He has been indefatigable in his efforts and has enlisted the co-operation of instructors of the best ability in their respective lines. From the institution of which he is the executive head have been graduated hundreds of young men and women who predicate their success to the instruction here received, and it should be noted that Clyde H. Marshall, of New York city, who won the world's championship as the fastest shorthand writer in 1910, was graduated from this school. The college has an average annual enrollment of two hundred and sixty students, and the equipment and facilities throughout are of the highest order, the average daily attendance of students being about one hundred and forty, with an average of two hundred during the winter months. Concerning David Sillers, the secretary of the college, individual mention is made on other pages of this volume.

Mr. Argubright initiated his pedagogic career before he had attained to the age of fifteen years, as a teacher in a district school in his native state, and he has amplified his mental ken by close and effective reading and study along many lines. He gave special attention to the study of law while he was still engaged in teaching, and gained a thorough basic knowledge of the science of jurisprudence, though he has never made application for admission to the bar. Like many other successful educators, Mr. Argubright believes that the national public-school system of the United States is distinctively ineffective in many ways. He believes that the pupil should be led to think for himself, to make his knowledge practical and to develop his special powers or "potential," instead of being rushed through to so-called graduation without regard to individual predilection,—along which lies his greatest power for worthy and gratifying achievement. In his own school Mr. Argubright has thus made an insistent effort to develop the intrinsic powers of the individual person and not to cause all to follow a definite routine. The success of his work is the most effective evidence of the legitimacy of his system and policies. He realized that not a tithe of the pupils who come to his school for instruction have as thorough and accurate a

Hosted by Google

knowledge of English construction as he had when he was fifteen years of age, and this in face of the fact that a large proportion of students are high-school graduates. He holds to high ideals and high ambitions in his chosen fields of educational work, and in connection with the same has been signally fortunate in promoting the same attitude on the part of students. Thus the success of the Michigan Business and Normal College has been not an accident but a logical result.

Mr. Argubright is progressive and public-spirited as a citizen and takes lively interest in all that touches the civic and material prosperity of his home city. He gives his allegiance to the Republican party, and is affiliated with the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias. His home is at 78 Chestnut street.

On the 22d of December, 1896, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Argubright to Miss Mary T. Dailey, of Port Byron, Illinois, where she was born and reared. There she was graduated in the high school and later she completed a thorough course and was graduated in the Iowa Commercial College, at Davenport.

DAVID SILLERS. As secretary of the Michigan Business and Normal College, one of the staunch and valued educational institutions of Calhoun county, Mr. Sillers has been actively identified with the upbuilding of the school and has been a potent factor in gaining to the same distinctive precedence among other similar institutions in the state. Concerning the same, adequate mention is made in the sketch dedicated to its president, Charles J. Argubright, on other pages of this work, and thus the article at hand needs but to give recognition to Mr. Sillers himself, as one of the representative factors in the educational circles of the county and as one of the popular citizens of Battle Creek.

Mr. Sillers was born in Oxford county, province of Ontario, Canada, on the 19th of July, 1861, and is a son of Thomas and Charlotte (Peat) Sillers, both of whom were born in the vicinity of the city of Glasgow, Scotland, their marriage having been solemnized in the Dominion of Canada, to which Thomas Sillers immigrated when a young man, his wife having come to America with her parents. Thomas Sillers became one of the representative agriculturists of Oxford county, Ontario, and both he and his wife continued to reside on the old homestead until their death. Both exemplified to the fullest extent the sterling qualities of the race from which they were sprung, and both commanded unequivocal confidence and esteem in the community that represented their home for many years. They were devout members of the Presbyterian church and their lives were lived in harmony with the faith which they thus professed. They became the parents of seven sons and two daughters, all of whom are living.

David Sillers was reared to the sturdy discipline of the home farm and gained his early education in the district schools of his native county, after which he continued his studies in the high school at Weston near the city of Toronto. High academic studies were then taken by him in the Woodstock Collegiate Institute, at Woodstock, Ontario, and after teaching in the country schools for two years he attended the Baptist Institute of Woodstock, in the commercial department of which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1884. Thereafter he took a six months' course in shorthand at the Pernin Institute, in the city of Detroit, Michigan, after which he passed about one year at Windsor, Ontario, as a stenographer. For six months thereafter he instructed a private class in shorthand at Woodstock, that province, and he then came to Battle Creek, in 1886. He remained one year as instructor in the Krug Business College and then went to the capital city of Mon-

Hosted by Google

tana, where he was an instructor in the Helena Business College for one year. He then returned to Battle Creek and again identified himself with the Krug Business College, of which institution he became secretary upon its reorganization under its present title of Michigan Business and Normal College. He has been a most able and valued coadjutor of the president, Charles J. Argubright, and their relations have at all times been of the most pleasing order, with common aims and ambitions. Both were also associated in the organization of the Hygienic Food Company, of Battle Creek, and are still stockholders in the same.

In politics Mr. Sillers gives staunch allegiance to the Republican party. He has passed the various chairs in the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias, of which he is now a trustee, and he is also treasurer of the Battle Creek Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He finds recreation in motoring and other outdoor sports and is a popular member of the Athelstan Club, the leading social organization of representative business men in his home city, where he resides at 165 Fremont street, the home being a center of gracious hospitality, as Mrs. Sillers was born and reared in Battle Creek and is a member of one of the old and honored families of Calhoun county.

On the 13th of September, 1888, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Sillers to Miss Nellie H. Finley, daughter of Ebenezer R. Finley, one of the sterling pioneers of the county, where he continued to reside until his death.

ALBERT P. GROHENS. As secretary and general manager of the Lambert Machine Company and also secretary of the Marshall Business Men's Association, Mr. Grohens occupies a place of distinctive prominence and influence in connection with the civic and industrial interests of the beautiful little city of Marshall, the judicial center of Calhoun county. His progressiveness, loyalty and public spirit have been exemplified in many directions and his character and achievement make him specially eligible for consideration in this history of the county in which he has maintained his home since 1900, and in which he has gained secure vantage ground in popular confidence and esteem.

It would be impossible, even within the limitations of so necessarily brief a sketch as the one here presented, to refer to the career of Mr. Grohens without directing special attention to his achievements in connection with the business and success of the Lambert Machine Company, of which he is the executive head and which represents one of the important industrial enterprises of Calhoun county and its capital city. If dauntless courage, honesty of purpose, careful and straightforward business methods ever proved potent in saving a concern which all but hung over the precipice of failure; in bringing order out of chaos and success from the doom of defeat,—then the name of Albert P. Grohens will live in exemplification of what sterling character, worthy ambition and insistent progressiveness are capable of accomplishing in any legitimate business.

The Lambert Machine Company was organized in 1901. Among the principal stockholders were Joseph Lambert, Dr. Isaac W. Houston, Sidney H. and George H. Edgerton, and Albert P. Grohens. The chief object was to manufacture a line of breakfast foods and to continue the making of a small peanut-butter mill and hand peanut-roaster, which machines had been manufactured for several years previously at Battle Creek, this county, by the firm of which Lambert and Grohens were members. The company as organized in 1901 was known as the Lambert Food & Machinery Company, with Joseph Lambert as the head and general manager. The breakfast-food proposition soon

Hosted by Google

proved a failure. Mr. Lambert sold his interest in and retired from the business. The concern was in a bankrupt condition and for a time the only feasible plan seemed to be to wind up the business for the benefit of the creditors.

Finally, in 1904, with the help of several of the principal stockholders, Mr. Grohens reorganized the company and formulated a plan upon which to carry forward the enterprise. This plan contemplated the manufacture of a special line of food machinery, such as peanut-butter mills, peanut cleaners, and cereal and peanut roasters, and also to perfect a line of coffee-roasting machinery. In view of the fact that the first peanut-butter mill—a small hand machine—was first invented by Joseph Lambert, in 1898, and that this little mill thus formed the nucleus of the new industry instituted in 1904, it was deemed best to retain the name of Lambert, and the title of Lambert Machine Company was definitely adopted.

So well has this business prospered within the last few years that not only is the original indebtedness wiped out, but the company also has tangible assets of more than forty thousand dollars, to say nothing of the commercial worth and intrinsic value of the patents, machinery, patterns and designs, and the good will of a firmly established industry. Mr. Grohens is a thorough believer in modern equipments and is bending his entire energies to designing and perfecting new ideas to be incorporated in the line of products manufactured by his company, as well as to amplifying by new additions. The Lambert electric coffee roasters, the Lambert electric peanut mills and all the rest of the machines made by this concern and marketed under the name of "Lambert" have earned a national and even international reputation, and yet the man who is responsible for them, the man who is at once the designer, manager and salesman, modestly continues to work all the harder for the success of the business and for a line of machinery which bears another man's name.

Born in the beautiful province of Alsace, Germany, on the 22nd of March, 1868, Mr. Grohens there received excellent educational advantages in the German and French schools, and besides being a master of the German and French languages he has perfected himself in the English language, which he speaks and writes with much grace of diction and absolute fluency. This is shown by the fact that he frequently contributes to leading trade journals articles of interest, on topics in connection with which he is an acknowledged authority. He came to the United States when a mere youth and the foundation of his business career was laid by his completing a full course of studies in the Battle Creek Business University, in which he was graduated in 1891. He is an extensive traveler and the requirements of the business in which he is engaged have brought him into close touch with conditions in practically every state of the Union. But it is when at home with his family that Mr. Grohens finds his real comfort and enjoyment, and anyone passing his beautiful suburban home in the early morning hours may see him busy making garden, pruning fruit trees or attending to the horses, cattle, chickens, etc.

Mr. Grohens has shown a loyal interest in all that touches the progress and prosperity of the city of Marshall, and in January, 1911, he was elected secretary of the Marshall Business Men's Association. He still retains this position and has been earnest in his efforts to promote the high civic ideals for which the organization stands sponsor. He is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, and is a captain in its military rank.

In politics a Progressive. June 24, 1899 he married Miss Rebecca

Hosted by Google

Atteberry of Keeneville, Illinois, and they have two children: Inez and William, the last named being so called in honor of William McKinley.

FRED W. BARNEY. A man who can claim the combined distinctions of belonging to one of the pioneer families of this region; and of having made good to an enviable degree in the business circles of Battle Creek; and of having reared a family creditable to his character is Fred W. Barney, the successful coal dealer of Jefferson avenue and the genial commercial-traveling representative for the W. J. Hamilton Coal Company.

The Barney name has been well known in Calhoun county and Bedford township for four generations. The grandfather of Fred W. Barney was Nathaniel Barney, the popular old host of Barney Tavern of early pioneer days. His son, Oliver Barney, was himself a man of note as a pioneer. From 1832 until his death in 1900 at the age of seventy-eight he was a resident of this community. He was widely known and highly esteemed throughout Southern Michigan. Mrs. Phoebe Barney, his widow, is still living on the old farm, which is now only a mile from the city limits and seemingly brought much nearer by the interurban street-car line, which passes it.

On this farm Fred W. Barney was born on October 21, 1859, the only other child of the family being Herbert A., who died at the age of nineteen. Fred W. was educated in the public schools, completing his quest for knowledge of book-lore in the old Battle Creek College. After leaving the latter institution, he spent three years in contributing to the education of the youth of the rural districts in Barry county. His next experience of life was gained through a year's work as a traveling representative for a book firm, his territory being Michigan and Ohio. Following this experiment, he accepted a position as resident salesman in the hardware store of Bock and Peters of Battle Creek. After being thus engaged for seven years he bought out a coal and wood business, in which he has ever since been engaged. Three years ago he purchased the property on Jefferson Avenue, to which he moved his business, known by the firm name of Barney and Son, Dealers in Hard and Soft Coal, etc. Since the son of Mr. Barney has attained his majority and has become his father's partner, our subject has been able to devote his time and attention to other lines. For the last two years he has been acting as road salesman for The W. J. Hamilton Coal Company of Columbus, Ohio.

Mrs. Barney was formerly Miss Elizabeth Kirkpatrick of Battle Creek township, and the daughter of William and Isabell (Moore) Kirkpatrick, an account of whom is given elsewhere in these volumes. The first child of Mr. and Mrs. Barney was named Oliver, in memory of his grandfather and others of the family lineage, and is the son referred to above. He is a hustling young business man and a favorite about the city. He resides at home and is a member of the Athelstan Club and of the Elks. He is a graduate of the Battle Creek high school and of Krug's Business College. He has been his father's partner since 1910. Of the daughters, Isabell May, who was a graduate of the Battle Creek high school class of 1904, is now Mrs. Frank W. Bryce of this city; while Helen May, of the class of 1906, resides at home with her parents.

The Fred W. Barney family is one of those prominent in the support of the Baptist church, of which they are members. Mr. Barney is also a member of the Order of Elks and the Union of Commercial Travelers. His residence is at 194 West Main street and he is also the owner of the old homestead before mentioned. This property lies just beyond the Country Club and is the only farm between Battle Creek and Urbandale.

Hosted by Google

Its one hundred and five acres will eventually be platted for city lots. All municipal interests claim the fair attention of Mr. Barney, who nevertheless has always been quite free from any political ambition. His party affiliation is Democratic, but in local matters he makes a personal discrimination in favor of the most worthy, regardless of party. He is known among his fellow-citizens as a man who is deservedly successful, as well as justly popular.

WILLIAM KIRKPATRICK was born in county Antrim, Ireland, on the 21st of October, 1828 and here he spent his boyhood days. In 1851 he came to New York City, and remained there for some time, later coming west to Michigan, where he hired out as a farm hand. In 1857, an event took place that was the culmination of a romance that had its beginnings back in his boyhood days in the little Irish village. This was in his eastern trip when he was married to Miss Isabella Moore, who was born in county Antrim on the 14th of May, 1828, and who had been the companion of his childhood. The marriage took place the 12th of March, 1857, at Newburgh, New York, and on the same day the young people started for the West. Their wedding journey, therefore, was to Battle Creek, Michigan, where they settled on a small piece of property in Battle Creek township. The only building here was a little log cabin, and in this humble abode the pair began their wedded life. For several years Mr. Kirkpatrick devoted all of his attention to the clearing of the land and to getting it under cultivation. When he set to work upon it, it was entirely unimproved, but he soon had the timber cut, the land plowed and the first crop sowed. He was successful from the first, and after the land was in good condition he turned his attention to the house. He replaced the cabin with a modern farm house, and as his financial resources grew larger, he bought more land. At the time of his death he owned three hundred and forty acres, and his farm was considered one of the finest properties in Battle Creek township. He had spared no expense to have everything on the place of the most up-to-date model, and the crops which he was enabled to raise were sufficient proof that he had worked in the right direction.

Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick were the parents of nine children, four of whom died in infancy. The others are Ella, Elizabeth, Louise, William J. and Marie M. All of these children had the privileges of a good education, and some of them have taken advantage of their opportunities to a very great extent. All of them were sent to the Battle Creek high school, of which school Ella and Louise are graduates. Louise R. spent two years in the University of Michigan, and later, after a period devoted to educational work, she went to the University of Chicago, where she spent one summer. In June of 1899, Louise and Marie went abroad, visiting Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, France, England and Ireland. They saw the most interesting of the places famed in history, and many of the world-famous paintings and pieces of architecture, that America with all her natural beauties can not show. They visited the birth place of their mother in Ireland, spending several days with her only surviving sister, and meeting many of the girlhood and boyhood friends of both parents.

Louise R. is now a teacher in the high school at Battle Creek and Marie M. is with the Trades and Workers Association, which is located on the fifth floor of the Post building in Battle Creek. The two sisters live together at 29 Guest street. The eldest daughter, Ella, after teaching school very successfully for several years, married Eugene B. Root, and is now living in Los Angeles, California. Elizabeth is now the wife of Fred W. Barney, of Battle Creek, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work, his family being pioneer settlers in this county.

Hosted by Google

Mr. Kirkpatrick was a man who possessed many sterling traits of character, and was a devoted husband and father. He was a Democrat in politics, and though he never sought office was at one time elected justice of the peace, and discharged the duties of that office most efficiently. He belonged to the Presbyterian church and took an active part in the work of that church for many years. At the time of his death he was serving as elder. He died on the 7th of October, 1888, and his wife survived him nearly twenty years, living until the 19th of February, 1906. Both of them are buried in the Reese cemetery in Battle Creek township.

The children were all born in the old log cabin on the old farm in Battle Creek township, and this old house stood within a stonesthrow of the old Reese school house where all of the children first attended school.

ROBERT G. BOCK. One of the most profitable and satisfactory business connections is that which exists between father and son when they are associated together in ventures of an important nature. The experience of the elder man and the enthusiasm of the younger are welded together into a strong chain that makes their efforts productive and of remarkable results. Such a combination exists in the well-known hardware and sporting goods house of Bock-Walker Company, of Battle Creek, the able and energetic secretary and treasurer of which, Robert G. Bock, has inherited the business ability of his father, Frank F. Bock, the president of the concern, and of his grandfather, Charles Bock, the founder of the business, both of whom are represented by biographies in other parts of this volume.

Robert G. Bock was born August 10, 1889, in Battle Creek, Michigan, and secured his education in the public and high schools, graduating from the latter in the class of 1907. He at once entered the business which had been founded by his grandfather many years before, and which was reorganized in April, 1909, at which time the president, Frank F. Bock, retired from active participation in the company's operations, although he still holds the presidency and an interest in the business. Arthur Walker became vice-president and general manager and Robert G. Bock, secretary and treasurer, and under this management the firm is doing a large and steadily increasing business. In addition to hardware and sporting goods of all kinds, the Bock-Walker Company deals in paints, oils, glass, varnishes, paper, cordage and grocers' specialties, and has a large, well-equipped establishment at No. 18 West Main street. Robert G. Bock has displayed an unusual amount of ability in handling the affairs entrusted to his capable hands, and his energy and enterprise are constantly being employed in introducing new and progressive features into the business. Modern methods have found in him a stanch adherent, and his years of experience and training have made him thoroughly conversant with every angle and branch of his business and given him prestige in the hardware trade. He has manifested his interest in the progress of Battle Creek, and is ever ready to contribute time and money towards the support of any measure which he believes will work for the ultimate good of all concerned. Following the example of his father and grandfather, he is a stanch supporter of Republican principles. Socially he is a general favorite, and a popular member of the Athelstan Club, of which his father was one of the organizers and a charter member. His religious connection is with the St. Thomas Episcopal church of Battle Creek.

On August 23, 1911, Mr. Bock was united in marriage with Miss Ada W. Hudler, daughter of Adrain W. Hudler, of Battle Creek. Mrs. Bock was born in Ottumwa, Iowa, and attended the Battle Creek high

Hosted by Google

school, graduating in the class of 1907 with her husband. They reside in a comfortable modern residence at No. 73 Groveland street, and are well and favorably known in social circles of Battle Creek.

HARVEY E. LEWIS, one of the more prominent and well-to-do farmers of Calhoun county, has been a resident of this favored section of the state for more than half a century. He is a native of the Green Mountain state, born in Waterbury, Vermont, on November 22, 1855, the son of Samuel and Lucy (Montgomery) Lewis. The Lewis family is one which traces its American ancestry back to the early part of the seventeenth century, and their names have been prominent in early American history. Samuel Lewis was the son of Josiah Lewis and was the tenth child in a family of eleven, all of whom, on reaching years of maturity, left the old eastern home and moved westward, some of them locating in Michigan. Samuel was one of these. Harvey Lewis, a brother of Samuel, and the uncle of Harvey Lewis of this personal record, was among the first settlers to locate in Battle Creek. He entered a quarter section of land on a government tract, settling there near what is now the city of Battle Creek, and for many years he conducted a tavern at what is known as Du Bois Corners. Samuel Lewis, the father of this subject, was married on December 5, 1846, at his home town in Vermont, to Lucy Montgomery, previously mentioned. She was the daughter of Captain John Montgomery, who served in the War of 1812. They became the parents of one son, Harvey E. In 1859 Mr. Lewis came with his little family to Michigan and located on the farm now occupied by his son Harvey. The farm consists of one hundred and thirty-four acres picturesquely situated on the banks of Sonoma Lake, and here Mr. and Mrs. Lewis passed the remainder of their lives in the peace and quiet of a happy country home. Mr. Lewis was a type of the genuine Vermont Yankee. He was shrewd, clever and witty, and was possessed of a most pleasing, but strong and sturdy character. Although he never studied the subjeect in a business-like way, he was well versed in veterinary lore, and for miles around he was consulted by all in need of such advice as he could give, and which he always gave most generously, as well as any practical assistance he might render. "Uncle Sam" is the sobriquet by which he was known throughout the country, and there was not a more popular man in the township than he. Mr. Lewis was a Democrat, in his political convictions, but never took an active part in the political life of the community, beyond exercising his right of franchise when occasion offered. He died on September 26, 1892, some time before the death of his wife, who passed away on July 11, 1901.

Harvey E. Lewis was educated in the public schools of LeRoy township, and as a young man was busily occupied with the multitude of duties incident to farm life on the home place. On November 24, 1880, when he was about twenty-five years old, Mr. Lewis married, and with his wife settled on a farm nearby that of his father, remaining there for some time. He moved back to the old home place a short time before the death of his father, and there he has continued to reside, carrying on the work of the farm and living well up to the standard set by his father. In conjunction with his farming interests, Mr. Lewis carries on a hunting and trapping business, which is one of his greatest pleasures, as well as a matter of financial moment to him. He is a hunter of some renown in his part of the country, as was his father before him, who also conducted a similar industry during his lifetime.

Mr. Lewis married Alice Owen, the daughter of Uriah and Catherine (Holmes) Owen, a prominent family in LeRoy township. The Owen household came from New York state in 1862, locating first in Battle

Hosted by Google

Creek, and coming later to LeRoy. Uriah Owen was born in Cayuga county, New York, while Mrs. Owen was a native of Orleans county. They were the parents of ten children, of which number Mrs. Lewis was the sixth born. Both are now deceased, Mr. Owen's death occurring in 1885 and his wife passing away in 1906.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis became the parents of three children. Derr A. is a teacher and musician located in Battle Creek. Glenn Owen, and Kent Weston are still in the parental home. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Lewis is a Democrat, as was his father, and has held some important positions with relation to party interests. He has been justice of the peace in his township for a number of years, and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

JOSHUA SIMON, M. D. Actively engaged in the practice of medicine at Tekonsha, Calhoun county, Joshua Simon, M. D., is a man of wide professional experience, and one who has given much time and thought to the study of the diseases to which human flesh is heir, and to the processes of alleviating suffering. A native of Indiana, he was born, June 4, 1848, in DeKalb county, and is of Swiss ancestry, his grandfather, George Simon, having emigrated from Switzerland to America in the very early part of the nineteenth century, settling in Ohio.

Samuel Simon, the Doctor's father, was born, in 1812, near Canton, Ohio. Moving to Indiana when young, he was there engaged in farming until his death in 1868. He married Margaret Peppel who was born in Ohio in 1812 and died in 1868. They reared five children all of whom, with the exception of the first born, are now living, in 1912, the Doctor being the youngest child of the parental household.

Brought up in Indiana Joshua completed his early studies in the Fort Wayne high school. Learning telegraphy when quite young he served as telegraph opereator for several railroad companies in his native state. He subsequently took up the study of medicine with his brother and before taking a full course began the practice of his chosen profession, locating at West Point, Huntington county, Indiana. Later entering one of the old and well-established colleges of that state in Marion he was there graduated with the degree of M. D., in 1887. Returning to De Kalb county, Dr. Simon located as a physician at Garrett, and practiced there, and in other places in Indiana, until 1911. Coming then to Calhoun county, Michigan, the Doctor located at Tekonsha where he is rapidly building up a large and remunerative practice, being well patronized throughout the community. He uses largely the eclectic method of treating diseases, one not as well known in Michigan as in some of the states, but which has been shown in all of its merits by Dr. Simon.

Dr. Simon married in 1879, Miss Winona Stanlsy, who was born in Mankato, Minnesota, and to them two children have been born, namely: Thomas Lee Simon, engaged in railroad work at Paradise, Montana; and Mrs. Capitola Kelley, of Deming, New Mexico. Politically the Doctor is identified with the Republican party, and fraternally he is a member of the Yeomen of America.

WILLIAM J. SCHODER. Two closely related families who have been prominently identified with Battle Creek and vicinity for the past sixty years are the Schoders and Murphys, who are represented in Mr. and Mrs. William Schoder, of 475 East Main street in Battle Creek. The original settlers bearing these names were people of great industry and fine integrity, were successful in acquiring the fruits

Hosted by Google

of material prosperity, and their descendants have been worthy and useful members of the community.

William Schoder was born on the old Schoder homestead in Battle Creek township, August 16, 1863. His father, Henry Schoder, who was born in Hanover, Germany, and died at the home in this county aged sixty-five years, was educated in the old country for a teacher, and engaged in that vocation for about ten years before coming to the United States. He crossed the Atlantic ocean three times. He first came to this country and to this county about 1840, and for three years worked at the nursery business in the employ of Henry Willis and Isaac Mott. He then returned to his native land and married Miss Marie Lesh, whom he had known and courted before his first voyage, and for whom he had worked to prepare a home in the new world. She was a native of Brunswick, Germany, where she was educated and married. They then embarked on a vessel and were seven weeks on board before landing at Castle Garden. Coming to Michigan they settled on a little two-acre piece of land near Battle Creek which he had bought with his slender means. To this as his prosperity increased with the years, he added until he was eventually owner of a fine estate of one hundred and ninety-two acres, in two different farms. Dairy farming was his principal industry, and he was thoroughly esteemed in this community both as a citizen and business man. In Germany he had served the regular period of three years in the imperial army. He was for many years a school director in Battle Creek township, and the schoolhouse located within forty rods of one of his farms was named in his honor, and it was there that his children obtained their early education. In politics he was a Democrat. His farm became noted for its fruit culture as well as for its dairy. He retailed his milk by wagons in the city, and furnished a service that was well patronized for years. He and his wife were both members of the German Lutheran church in Battle Creek township. Mrs. Schoder, the wife and mother, died on the home farm in April, 1908, at the advanced age of eighty-four. Both now rest in the Oak Hill cemetery in this city. All the five children, three sons and two daughters, were born on the homestead and reached adult years, but William is now the only one living. The names of the children were Mrs. Abraham Holladay, Morris, Alvin, William and Nora.

On September 22, 1884, when William Schoder was twenty-one years of age, he married Miss Katharine Murphy, daughter of Robert Murphy, whose history is given in detail below. Their marriage occurred in St. Phillip's Catholic church in this city. They are the parents of two sons, who are now among the progressive young business men of Battle Creek, being proprietors of the Schoder Brothers Grocery Shop at 19 South Jefferson avenue. Raymond W., the older, was born on the farm in Battle Creek township, August 14, 1887, while Harry J., was born at the same place March 18, 1889. They were educated in the parochial and public schools, and Raymond attended the Michigan Business and Normal College of Battle Creek and also the Detroit College. Harry was a student in the local high school and also attended the Notre Dame University at South Bend.

For five years after his marriage Mr. Schoder continued in the dairy business which had been established by his father, and then moved into the city and started the grocery with which his name was associated for twenty years. He was a very successful and popular merchant, and when, in November, 1909, he retired he was able to turn over to the management by his sons a business of high class and profitable proportions. The store has been located at 19 South Jefferson

Hosted by Google

since 1906. He is the owner of considerable city property, and his principal work at the present time is in looking after its management. He is affiliated with the lodge of Elks in this city.

Mrs. Schoder was born in the old Murphy home on South avenue. The house was long since taken away and the site has been sold to the Grand Trunk railroad, but she finds pleasure in visiting the old spot and recalling the memories of her girlhood days. Mrs. Schoder is a graduate of the high school of the class of 1878, and takes an active part in the life of the city, being a member of the Amateur Musical Club and president of one of the departments in the Woman's League. She is also owner of some valuable real estate in the city. The family all resides in the attractive residence at 475 Main street East.

ROBERT MURPHY, in the death of Robert Murphy at his home on South avenue, November 19, 1889, Battle Creek lost one of its old and successful merchants and a citizen of fine integrity and wholesome influence in the community. He left a large family, and they are now active and useful members of society.

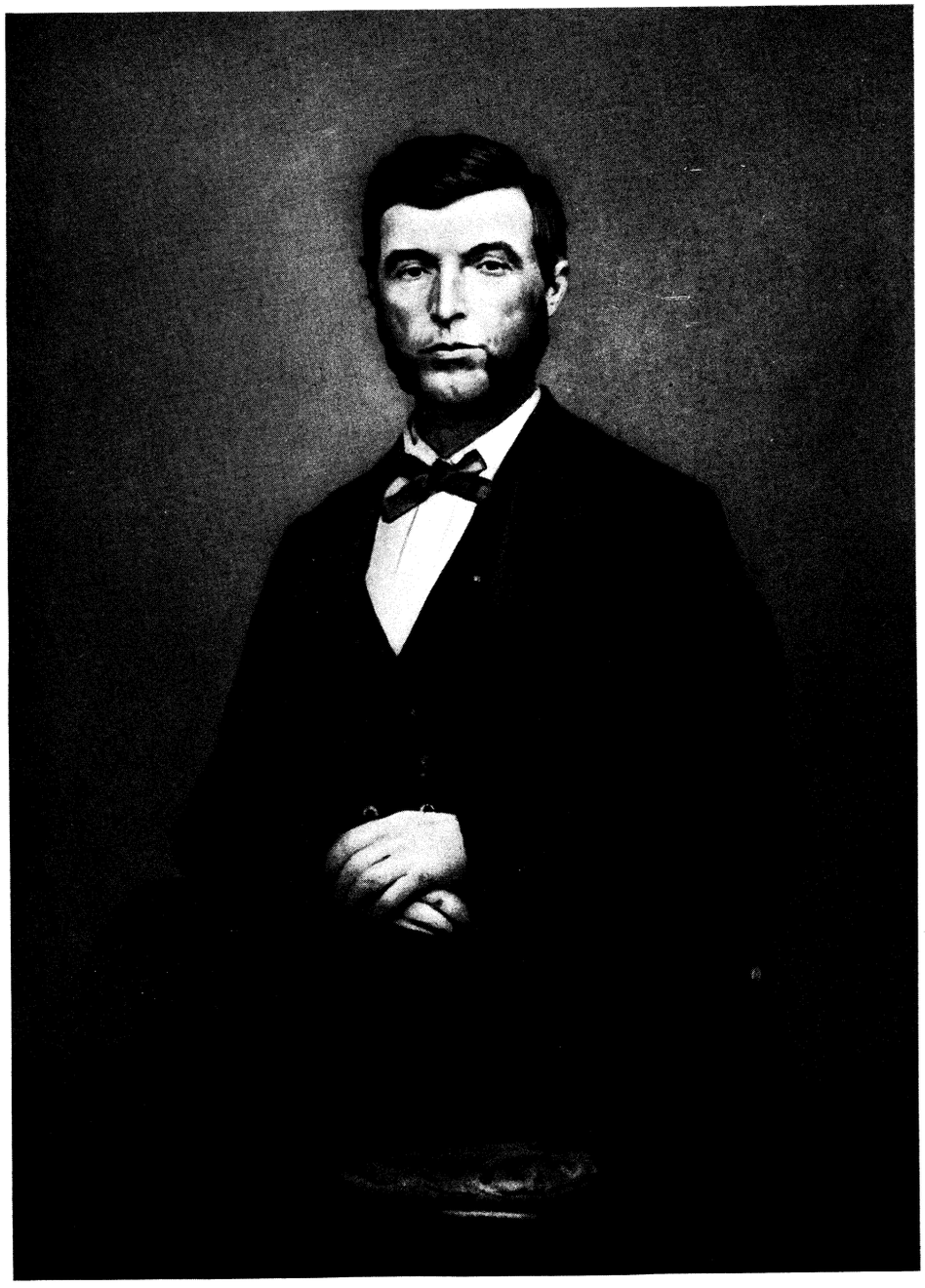
The late Mr. Murphy was born in Cork, Ireland, and when fourteen years old accompanied his parents to America, settling on Long Island. His parents being well to do gave him a good education in his native city. He was married in Jamaica, Long Island, to Miss Jane Whalen, who was born in Kildare, Ireland, and came to this country at the age of eight with her parents, who also settled on a farm on Long Island, where the subject was engaged in gardening.

In 1855 Mr. Murphy and wife moved west and settled in Battle Creek, where he became one of the early merchants and one of the first regular grocers of the town. He began business in the Upton block on Madison street, where the postoffice was afterward located, and later bought a corner at Jefferson avenue and Jackson street, where he continued in business until he retired, in 1886, about three years before his death which occurred in November, 1888. His wife died here on April 6, 1879.

He was a man of broad interests and public-spirited activities. He had accumulated and brought with him what was at the time considered a large private library, and as he continued to be a reader of varied literature all his life he left a very good collection of books at his death. In politics he was a Democrat. He helped buy the ground and was one of the first members of the St. Phillip's Catholic church of this city, having assisted materially in the building of the church. Also on the advice of the priest at Marshall, he bought with his own money a tract of land on South avenue which for some years he used as private pasture but which at the proper time he sold to the church, and which is now the Mt. Olivet Catholic cemetery. His home, where all the children but two, John and Sarah, were born and reared and which was the scene of many happy associations in their early life, was on South avenue, and its site is now part of the property of the Grand Trunk Railway.

Mr. and Mrs. Murphy were the parents of twelve children, namely: Mrs. Katharine Schoder, of Battle Creek; Edward R., of this city; Mrs. J. P. Conway, of Los Angeles; Mrs. Spencer Pomeroy, of this city; Mrs. Theresa Byrne, of this city; Francis J., of this city; and Sarah, John, Jane, Joseph, Robert and William who died in the order named, and who now rest in Mt. Olivet cemetery. William and Francis were educated in the local parochial schools and at Notre Dame University. Mrs. Pomeroy is a graduate of St. Mary's Academy of Monroe, Michigan, and Mrs. Byrne and Mrs. Schoder are both graduates of the Battle Creek high school, the former in the class of 1889.

Hosted by Google



ROBERT MURPHY

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

ALBERT J. HORNBERGER. An industrious and skilful agriculturist, Albert J. Hornberger is busily pursuing his free and independent occupation in Tekonsha township, and by persevering toil and good management receives each season excellent returns for the labor he expends upon his land. A son of Mathias Hornberger, he was born in Fredonia township, Calhoun county, Michigan, October 20, 1879, of thrifty German stock, and of pioneer ancestry his grandparents, George and Christina Hornberger, having settled on that very farm many years ago, just after they came with their family from Germany to this country.

Born in Rheinberg, Germany May 10, 1843, Mathias Hornberger was twenty-one years old when he crossed the Atlantic with his parents. Although without means, he had strong hands, a willing heart, and plenty of pluck and courage, assets of value. He worked out by the month for several years, and when he had accumulated some money he began farming on his own account, buying the interest of the remaining heirs in the parental homestead, in Fredonia township, where he tilled the soil to good purpose. He has since removed to Newton township, where he has three hundred and eighty and one-half acres of land, which he is cultivating with satisfactory results. He married November 25, 1874, in Michigan, Louisa Fousel, who was born in Germany, August 10, 1856, and came with her parents to Washtenaw county, Michigan, when but nine months old. Her father subsequently removed to Tekonsha township, Calhoun county, bought land, and partly improved the property now occupied by Mr. Hornberger. He died on the farm where he had spent so many happy years, and his widow, who survived him, passed the later years of her life in the village of Tekonsha. Eight children were born to Mathias and Louisa Hornberger, as follows: Louisa, now Mrs. Esch Christ, of Ypsilanti; Albert J., the subject of this sketch; Fred, Martha, now Mrs. Hes[illegible]; Herman, Robert and Lena. The father is a Democrat in politics, a member of the Knights of the Maccabees, and belongs to the German Lutheran church.

Albert J. Hornberger was educated principally in the district school at Warner Lake. Following in the footsteps of his worthy ancestors, he selected farming as his chosen work, and for two years was in the employ, at Union City, of L. L. Harsh, a noted farmer and breeder of thoroughbred stock. He subsequently worked for his father a year, and after his marriage took charge of the old Fousel estate of one hundred and forty acres, on which he has since lived, paying rental each year, at the same time making annual payments on its purchase price, it being now largely paid for.

Mr. Hornberger married, December 4, 1906, Ida H. Reinecke, a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Reinecke. Her father was a pioneer farmer of Calhoun county, where he cleared and improved a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He died, April 3, 1912, from a stroke of apoplexy, having been found dead in Mr. Hornberger's field, his death being a shock to the family and the community. Mrs. Reinecke died June 6, 1906. A woman of talent and culture, Mrs. Hornberger is a gifted musician, playing with skill the violin, organ, and piano. Politically Mr. Hornberger is a Democrat, and religiously he is a Lutheran.

BERT HOWARD, holds high rank among the prominent husbandmen of Calhoun county, wherein his entire life has been spent. Of him it can be truly said that he is a native and to the manner born, his birth having occurred, September 12, 1866, in Tekonsha township, on the farm where he is now living, he being a son of the late George S. Howard. His grandfather, Alonson Howard, a native of New York state, served as a soldier in the war of 1812. Coming with his family to Cal-

Hosted by Google

houn county in 1843, he located in Tekonsha township, buying from the government the land now owned and occupied by Mr. Bert Howard. He was a man of marked individuality, active in advancing the Masonic order.

George S. Howard was born, October 31, 1826, in Sweden, New York, and as a youth of seventeen years came with his parents to Tekonsha township, where he assisted his father in the pioneer work of clearing and improving a homestead. Succeeding to the ownership of the farm on which he had so faithfully labored he subsequently bought additional land, becoming owner of one hundred and eighty acres, on which he was prosperously engaged in general farming until about 1891. Retiring then from active business cares, he removed to the village of Tekonsha, and was there a resident until his death, September 24, 1899. He was always a Republican in politics, having cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont. Religiously both he and his wife were members of the Baptist church. He married, December 19, 1849, Louise Ames, who was born in Port Byron, New York, February 7, 1827, and died on the home farm, in Tekonsha, February 21, 1907. Three children were born of their union, as follows: George Merrett, Bert, and Mrs. Etta Howard Cater.

Acquiring his preliminary education in district school number six, Bert Howard supplemented that by a year's study at Albion College, there acquiring ample knowledge to fit him for a worthy position in the ranks of the world's workers. Returning home, he then assumed the charge of the parental homestead, and now owns one hundred and forty-two acres of choice land. Continuing the improvements previously inaugurated by his father, Mr. Howard has five hundred sugar maple trees in his well kept grove, and has piped the water from the fine springs of clear, pure, health-giving water to his house, which is supplied with modern conveniences, and heated with a furnace, his home being one of the most pleasant and attractive in the entire county.

Mr. Howard married, in 1899 Rose Olney a daughter of William and Hannah (Carter) Olney, who settled in Girard township, Branch county, Michigan, in pioneer times, and there spent the remainder of their days. A strong advocate of the principles of the Republican party, Mr. Howard has served as highway commissioner. He is a member of Washington Lodge, No. 7, Free and Accepted Masons; and the Order of the Eastern Star, to which Mrs. Howard likewise belongs, and which she has served as worthy matron for four years.

CAMER A. HOWARD. A well-known and esteemed citizen of Tekonsha township, and one of its skilful and prosperous agriculturists, Camer A. Howard is the descendant of one of its earlier pioneers, and the son of one of its pioneer physicians, Dr. Alonson Howard. He was born, August 3, 1868, on the farm where he now lives, and which has always been his home. His grandparents, Alonzo and Priscilla Howard, came from New York state to Michigan, locating in Tekonsha township, on what is now the William Howard farm, and having taken up government land redeemed a homestead from the wilderness.

Born in Sweden, Monroe county, New York, in 1823, was but a boy when he came with his parents to Calhoun county. In the district schools of Tekonsha township, he laid a substantial foundation for his future education, and subsequently took a course of study in the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor. Choosing, as natural to one of his mental calibre, a professional life, he entered the Cleveland Medical College, in Cleveland, Ohio, and was there graduated with the degree of M. D. Returning to Calhoun county, Dr. Howard was here success-

Hosted by Google

fully engaged in the practice of his profession the remainder of his life. Realizing that he might be of much more benefit as a practitioner if he made a thorough study of some particular branch of his profession, the Doctor became a specialist in chronic diseases, and in their treatment became somewhat famous, having patients in many parts of the state, and traveling a good deal during his later years. His death occurred at his home in Tekonsha township, in 1883, when but sixty years of age. He married first Letitia Cone, who bore three children, two of whom died in youth the third, Truman, is a farmer at Blocker, Arkansas. He married second in 1857, Cynthia Edmunds, who was born in 1832, and died in 1899. Four children were born of their union, Camer A. being the youngest of the family. The eldest son, Manchie Howard, M. D., is one of the leading physicians of Penyville, Arkansas, the others being Mattie and Lettie. Dr. Howard was a Republican in politics, and a Mason.

Camer A. Howard began his early studies in the district school, afterwards continuing his education in the Marshall high school. Succeeding to the ownership of the parental acres, he has since devoted his time and energies to general farming, his property being under a fine state of tillage, with improvements of value.

Mr. Howard married, in 1895, Alice Fox, a daughter of Bowen Hewitt, of Burlington township. Mr. Howard is also a Republican in politics but is not an aspirant for official favors.

EDWIN FRENCH. A native-born citizen of Tekonsha township, Calhoun county, Edwin French has spent the major part of his life within its limits, and as a practical and progressive farmer has been an important factor in developing and advancing its agricultural interests. He was born, October 25, 1852, in Tekonsha township, very near his present home and was here brought up and educated.

His father, Willis French was born May 1, 1818, in New York state. Reared to habits of economy and prudence, he saved his earnings, and when he had accumulated a small sum, he started westward, coming to Michigan in 1842. Becoming a pioneer settler of Tekonsha township, he took up sixty-nine acres of wild land, and on the homestead which he reclaimed, and on which his daughter, Mrs. Young, now lives, resided until his death, in 1888. Although he came to this township without means, his only capital having been pluck, perseverance, and two, strong and willing hands he accumulated a good property, at the time of his death owning three hundred and ten acres of land. His wife, whose maiden name was Roxanna Butler, was born in New York state in 1827; was married in Calhoun county, Michigan, in 1845; and died on the homestead in Tekonsha township, in 1905. Five boys and two girls were born of their union, Edwin, the subject of this sketch, being the fourth child in succession of birth.

Acquiring his elementary education in the district schools, Edwin French continued his studies at a select school in Tekonsha, afterwards doing high school work in Coldwater. He began life for himself as a tiller of the soil, but subsequently removed to Marshall, Michigan, where he was engaged in business for six years, having built up a good trade as a dealer in agricultural implements. Returning then to Tekonsha township, Mr. French bought the interest of the other heirs in one hundred and twenty acres of the old home farm, and has since been engaged in general farming, carrying on dairying and stock growing with much success, raising Jersey and Durham cattle, and Poland-China hogs.

Mr. French has been twice married. He married first, in 1876,

Hosted by Google

Lavina Abel, daughter of Moses Tompkins and Celestia (Bradley) Abel, of whom a more extended account may be found elsewhere in this volume, in connection with the sketch of Nelson Shedd. She passed to the higher life February 21, 1910, leaving five children namely: Merton, a decorator in San Francisco, California; Ernest, of Homer, in the feed, wood, coal and ice business; Mabel, wife of Burt Metcher, of Tekonsha; Ida, wife of William McCanliffe, of Albion; and Ray, of Homer. She was a noble-hearted Christian woman, and a faithful member of the Baptist church. Mr. French married second, Mrs. Sylvia Warner, who is likewise a member of the Baptist church. Politically Mr. French is identified with the Republican party.

WILLIAM B. DURHAM. Noteworthy among the extensive landholders of Tekonsha township is William B. Durham, who began his agricultural operations on a small scale, but has added to and extended his business, being now one of the most successful farmers in this part of Calhoun county. He is an exceedingly skilful agriculturist, and is in all respects a valuable citizen of the township, fulfilling his duties and obligations as such with fidelity. Of English parentage, he was born, January 1, 1865, near Battle Creek, and has spent his life in this part of the state.

His father, the late Barnett Durham, was born, January 31, 1821, in Yorkshire, England. His prospects for earning a livelihood there being not very brilliant, he immigrated to America in early manhood, about 1842, locating first in New York. In the early fifties, not very long after his marriage, he came with his family to Michigan, and lived for a time in Emmett township, Calhoun county. He afterwards bought land in Convis township, from there moving to Tekonsha township, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, on which he made many improvements, and continued his residence until his death, thirty-two years later, in 1904. He was never naturalized, but he took much interest in the advancement of the public welfare, and belonged to the Church of England, of which his good wife was also a member. He married, in New York, Elizabeth Severance, who was born, December 20, 1830, in Devonshire, England and died in Tekonsha township on the home farm, in 1905. They were the parents of six children, of whom William B. was the youngest child.

Gleaning his early knowledge of books in the district schools, William B. Durham was early trained to agricultural pursuits, becoming fitted while young for his future occupation. He was by nature of an active and enterprising disposition, possessing a resolute will and an honorable ambition; thus equipped, he met with no failures in his undertakings, but has from time to time added to his original purchase of ninety-eight acres of land until now he has title to four hundred and sixty-nine acres. Of this land, Mr. Durham has himself earned the money to pay for all but one hundred and sixty acres. He is now living somewhat retired from active pursuits, renting all but thirty acres of his farm. Mr. Durham has never married, his sister living with him, and presiding over his household.

DANIEL SUTHERLAND. Owning and occupying one of the finest farming estates in Calhoun county, Daniel Sutherland, of Tekonsha, has met with eminent success during his active career, and is now living somewhat retired from business affairs. He is a man of decided opinions, possessing much force of character, earnest and thorough in his work, wise in his judgments, and well merits the esteem and respect so generally accorded him. A son of John Sutherland, Jr., he was born,

Hosted by Google

September 23, 1857, in Eckfort township, Calhoun county, on the place known as the Haskell Farm. His grandfather, John Sutherland, Sr. emigrated with his family from Canada to Michigan, about 1846, and settled first in Jackson county. In 1848 he moved to Fredonia township, Calhoun county, and embarked in farming. A short time later, being seized with a severe attack of the gold fever, he made an overland journey to California, and never returned, the last that was heard from him having been in a letter which he wrote saying that he had been successful as a miner, and was coming home.

John Sutherland, Jr., was born in Ottawa, Canada, August 30, 1833. At the age of thirteen years he came with his parents to Michigan, and in 1850, when he was but seventeen years old, he became the main support of his mother and her family of ten children, his father going in that year to the Pacific coast in search of gold. He had no land, his only capital having been a pair of oxen for which he had not money enough to pay. He labored industriously as a farm hand, first in Fredonia township, and later being employed for one year on the Haskell farm in Marshall township, and there for three years worked by the month and then worked for three years on shares in Eckford township. Saving his money, he first purchased forty acres of land in that township, and later added to it by purchasing an adjoining tract of forty acres, and continued buying from time to time until he had a farm of two hundred and twenty-seven acres, a large part of which was under cultivation. Farseeing and prudent, he accumulated a handsome property, at the time of his death, which occurred January 27, 1909, being worth $10,000. He married Liza Earl, who died May 17, 1890. Eight daughters and two sons were born of their union, Daniel being the oldest child. Thomas Sutherland, Charles Sutherland, and George Sutherland, brothers of John Sutherland, Jr., served in the Civil war, from which Thomas never returned.

Daniel Sutherland was educated in Eckford, going to school as a boy at the command of his father, only, as he disliked studying books. He now believes in giving a boy a practical education in useful things, but rather opposes the higher branches of study unless one is to enter upon a professional career, supporting the views upon that subject advanced by the late Richard T. Crane, of Chicago. Becoming a farmer from choice, Mr. Sutherland first bought land on March 6, 1883, when he bought a farm of eighty acres, on which he lived twenty-seven years. He then purchased forty acres of land lying just across the road from his original farm, which he sold to his son-in-law, John W. Cook. Beginning life for himself without means, Mr. Sutherland has labored with diligence and perseverance, felling the trees, uprooting the sod, casting out the stones, an almost Herculean task as one might judge when looking at his huge stone pile, twenty rods long and twenty-one feet wide. He has spared neither time nor expense in improving his estate, having erected a fine set of substantial buildings himself, his farm being now one of the most desirable pieces of property in the township. He has carried on general farming almost exclusively, raising some stock, including O. I. C. hogs, which are his favorite breed.

Mr. Sutherland married, February 22, 1882, Ida Lusk, born in Eckford township, and a daughter of Jerry and Nancy Lusk, of Tekonsha, who were early settlers of Eckford township, Calhoun county, coming here from New York. Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland are the parents of three children, namely: Carrie, wife of John W. Cook, living on the old home farm, has two children, Harold and Margie; Howard, a farmer in Burlington township, married Ida Katz, and they have one child, Naomi; and John, living at home.

Hosted by Google

BRAY JOHNSON. An enterprising and progressive farmer, systematic and thorough in his methods, Bray Johnson, of Tekonsha township, is meeting with excellent success in his occupation, which he finds congenial to his tastes as well as quite profitable. A son of Seeley Johnson, he was born, November 29, 1860, in Rockford, Illinois, and during the first eight years of his life lived in the Prairie state. His parental grandfather, Thompson L. Johnson, was born, and lived and died in New York state.

The birth of Seeley Johnson occurred in Seneca, Ontario county, New York, September 10, 1827. In his early life he crossed the plains with the forty-niners, and for six years mined in the gold fields of California, being fairly successful in his search for the precious metal. Returning to his old home in 1855, he remained there until 1859, when he journeyed westward to Illinois, where he was employed in tilling the soil for nine years. Coming from there to Michigan, he lived for three years in Emmett township, Calhoun county, from there coming, in 1871, to Tekonsha township, where he is still living, retired from active pursuits a venerable and highly respected man. He married Mary L. Bray, who was born in New Jersey, July 5, 1835, and died May 8, 1912. Six children blessed their union, as follows: Gussie, wife of Ford Cook, of Tekonsha; William T. died in 1910, aged fifty-two years; Bray, the special subject of this brief review; Fred, engaged in the hardware business at Council Bluffs, Iowa; Charles, of Tekonsha; and Alice, wife of F. P. Bach. A Democrat in politics, Mr. Seeley Johnson has held some of the township offices, but has never been an aspirant for public positions. In his younger days he lost one of his fingers, which rather spoiled his good penmanship, and prevented him from serving in the Civil war. Both he and his wife united with the Presbyterian church many years ago.

Educated in the district schools, Bray Johnson followed in the footsteps of his ancestors, and has nearly all of his life been a tiller of the soil, an occupation in which he still finds his greatest pleasure. In 1883 he purchased one hundred acres of the land included in his present farm, and in 1910 bought eighty acres of adjoining land. Since assuming possession of his farm, Mr. Johnson has steadily added to the improvements previously inaugurated, his land being under a good state of culture, and well supplied with comfortable and convenient farm buildings. Politically Mr. Johnson is a Democrat, and has held various public offices. He has been justice of the peace, a member of the Town Board, and for thirty years was a school officer. In 1912, in a Republican stronghold, Mr. Johnson was elected supervisor of Tekonsha township, receiving a large majority of the votes cast. A firm believer in churches, and the work carried on by the various religious organizations, Mr. Johnson pays liberally toward their support, and attends the Episcopalian church, to which his wife belongs.

Mr. Johnson married, January 2, 1882, Zuba S. Carson, who was born in Seneca county, New York, a daughter of Charles S. and Emily S. (Kibble) Carson, who were life-long friends of Mr. Johnson's parents, having been born and brought up in the same neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are the parents of six children, namely: Clarence Carson, a well-known dentist of Jackson; Belle, who completed the course of study in the Tekonsha high school, and was graduated from the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, in 1910; Claude, who was educated at the Battle Creek Business College, is now engaged in farming; Harold B., attending the Normal School at Ypsilanti, is a member of the class of 1913; Donald B., a pupil in the Tekonsha

Hosted by Google

schools; and Bessie. Famed as an athlete, Clarence Carson Johnson has won more honors on the athletic fields of Calhoun county than any other one man, and while at Ann Arbor won distinction in athletics.

BENJAMIN F. MCMILLEN. Three generations of the McMillen family have called Michigan their home. When Benjamin F. McMillen's father was a boy, his parents, Hugh and Hannah (Stark) McMillen, located in Montcalm county. Their former home had been Watertown, New York, where George S. McMillen had been born on January 7, 1849. He grew up amid the rural scenes of Michigan and when he had grown to maturity, he followed varied kinds of useful labor. He was a Republican in politics and a Baptist in religion, with secret society affiliations in the orders of both the Maccabees and Odd Fellows. His wife, nee Mary A. Thompson, was a native of Coldwater, Michigan, her natal day being April 15, 1864. She was, with her husband, a member of the Baptist church, though now connected with the Methodist Episcopal denomination. The three children of George and Mary McMillen were two sons and one daughter, all of whom have grown to maturity. The eldest George H., is now the editor of *Athens Times.* Lois, the next in age, is now Mrs. W. F. Brown, a widow of Hudsonville, Michigan. Benjamin, the subject of this sketch, commands detailed consideration.

He was born in Portland, Ionia county, on April 16, 1882. His early general education was derived from the Tekonsha public schools. When only a boy he worked in a printing-office, where he gathered his first technical information and skill in the line which is now his life-work. When he was twenty-one years of age, he and his brother founded a newspaper which they called the *Lake Odessa Times,* the circulation of which was throughout Ionia county. They continued its publication until 1905, when he removed to Tekonsha and leased the *Tekonsha News,* a paper which had first been established in 1878 by James Gribbins. Mr. Benjamin McMillen subsequently purchased the plant of this weekly journal, which now enjoys a good circulation with a very satisfactory advertising business. Its policy is independent.

In 1906 Mr. McMillen was united in marriage to Miss Lillian Wright, a daughter of James and Ambia (Williams) Wright, of Lake Odessa, the father being a stock buyer and retired farmer of that place. Both Mr. and Mrs. McMillen are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Tekonsha.

In 1909 Benjamin F. McMillen was appointed postmaster at Tekonsha and has ably discharged the duties of that office. In personal politics he holds the views of the Republican party. He is alive to all phases of public welfare and duty and has previously held the office of village clerk for three years before his incumbency of this more important office. He is popular among the Tekonsha townsmen and holds membership in several fraternal organizations. He is a member of the order of the Modern Woodmen of America; of the Free and Accepted Masons, in the Washington lodge No. 7; and of the Order of the Eastern Star. He and his wife are also proud to formally continue their connection with Clan Macmillan, historically located in the south of Glasgow in Scotland.

GEORGE W. MELLEN. If peace tribunals and councils of arbitration accomplish the desired evolution in the international attitude regarding the bearing of arms by nation against nation, then will the old soldier become a rarity indeed. But never will America cease to rever-

Hosted by Google

ence her patriots who have so courageously borne arms in her behalf. The historian points with pride to every old soldier and among these records with interest the chief facts in the life of George W. Mellen.

This worthy farmer is of Scotch-American ancestry. His parents, Phillip and Aurora (Best) Mellen, were New Yorkers, who were born in 1807 and 1811 respectively. Phillip Mellen, who was a cooper, left New York for the newer civilization of Ohio, later taking up his residence in Michigan, where he bought a farm of 80 acres on which he lived until his death.

George W. Mellen was born in 1837. He began life in the rural surroundings, which ever since have been his chosen habitat. His earliest agricultural experience was gained through farming on shares in Kalamazoo county. In 1856 he removed to Barry county, where he bought a farm of 40 acres, which he retained and lived on for one year. His success was such that at the end of that time he bought another farm doubling the first in size in Calhoun county. This he again sold, buying again with a second expansion of his property, to the extent of 96 acres. He now owns a farm of 140 acres, well tilled and improved.

Mr. Mellen's estimable help-mate was the daughter of Jonah and Orenda (Isham) Outman, the former a New Yorker, the latter a native of Vermont. Like Mr. Mellen's parents, they too, changed their residence first to Ohio and later to Michigan. Mr. Outman who was of French descent was a particularly successful man for his day, becoming the possessor of 240 acres of land. His family was of the good old-fashioned kind, numbering eleven children. Mrs. Mellen was born on April 16, 1841.

The younger generation of the George Mellen family consists of two daughters. The elder, Orende, was married to John H. Underwood, a shoemaker of Battle Creek, whose death occurred February 21, 1910. Mrs. Underwood now resides with her parents. The second daughter, Phebe, is the wife of Mr. Bert Miller, a farmer of Athens township.

The family of George Mellen was brought up in the Methodist faith, Mr. Mellen is independent in politics, always weighing the relative value and fitness of men and measures in any issue. He is popular with his neighbors and associates, having been for forty years a member of the Athens Masonic lodge, in which he has served as junior warden. He is wide awake and interested in all live topics of the day, although he is now rich in years and in memories of the time when as a private of Company A, Sixth Michigan Regulars, he served his country in many battles, including the siege of Mobile. May his days be long in the land.

CHARLES A. PARLIN. A member of one of the pioneer families from Ohio who have in past years done much for the building up of Michigan, is Charles A. Parlin. He is, however, of New England blood, his father, Aaron Parlin, having been born in Tyngsborough on April 30, 1798. His mother, Fidelia Isham, was a native of Norwalk, Ohio, the date of her birth having been May 6, 1817. Their marriage occurred at the latter place on the 22d of January, 1838. Of the six children of this family, only three are living at this date. The two sisters of the subject of this biography are Mrs. Martha F. Alvord, a widow, who resides in Orange county, California, and Miss Ellen L. Parlin, who lives in Athens township.

Aaron Parlin in his earlier manhood was engaged in teaching. For a number of years he was an instructor at Milan Seminary and also for some time in the public schools, subsequently being called to the prin

Hosted by Google

cipalship of the Milan Seminary. For his health's sake he turned to work permitting him more out-of-door life and spent some time in canvassing through an extensive region. He was eventually attracted by the agricultural possibilities of this section of country, and in 1858 settled on the farm of 80 acres on which his son, Charles Parlin, now lives. At the time of its first occupation it consisted entirely of woods, which Aaron Parlin cleared and upon which ground he erected the first buildings. Here he lived until his death, on September 6, 1872. He was in religious denomination a Methodist, and as to political party a Republican. His wife outlived him many years, dying in the same locality on July 18, 1893.

Charles Parlin, who was born in Plymouth, Ohio, August 20, 1848, was a boy of ten years at the time when the family removed to Michigan, and his childhood experiences were those of the typical pioneer's son of that period and place. He attended the district school until of an age when it seemed advisable for him to give all his time to assisting his father on the farm and to gather experience which should be of benefit to him in his own future work. In his youth his love of horses and his skill in estimating their worth and possibilities was more than ordinary.

His landed interests have since become paramount, however, and his property has been increased to a gratifying extent.

The marriage bond between Charles A. Parlin and Clarissa Jones—who was a daughter of Oliver and Hanna (Dirr) Jones, early pioneers of Waukeshma township, Kalamazoo county, was sealed on July 28. 1872. Mrs. Parlin's family had been originally of Pennsylvania and later of Ohio before their coming to Michigan. Since her marriage to Mr. Parlin, seven children have come to them. Charles DeWitt lives at Burlington, in this state; Fred O. at Middlebury, Indiana; Gertie, who is Mrs. E. Tuttle, in Athens township; Martha B., now Mrs. B. M. Converse, also in Athens township; the twins, Eland D. in Athens township, and Everett I., at home; Nellie, the youngest daughter, is also still with her parents.

On this farm where his children have been reared Mr. Parlin has spent practically his entire life. He now owns 365 acres in Athens township. He is very widely and favorably known in this vicinity and and is especially active in the life of his fraternal order, which is that of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His membership is in Lodge No. 326 at Athens. He has passed all chairs in this order and has three times attended Grand Lodge. Politically he is a Democrat. For six years he held the office of township treasurer and has also served as pathmaster. In both offices he proved himself a capable incumbent. In the latter case he was especially vigorous, accomplishing three hundred and sixty days' work on the highways.

FRANK W. RICHARDSON. On his finely improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Athens township, Calhoun county, Michigan, Frank W. Richardson is most successfully engaged in diversified agriculture and the raising of fine cattle and horses. At one time he dealt quite extensively in trotting horses, breeding and selling them. He is a citizen of prominence in his home community and manifests a keen interest in all matters projected for the good of the general welfare.

Mr. Richardson was born on the farm on which he now resides, the date of his nativity being the 9th of May, 1854, and he is a son of Henry and Mary Ann (Bailey) Richardson, both of whom were born in England, the former in Lincolnshire, October 16, 1808, and the latter in Leicestershire, December 12, 1819. Henry Richardson was the young-

Hosted by Google

est in order of birth in a family of twelve children and his people were hotel keepers in England. He came to America in 1838, at the age of thirty years, and settled in Rochester, New York, where he found employment in a butcher shop. In that place, on the 4th of May, 1843, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Mary Ann Bailey, who bore him four sons and two daughters, three of whom are living, in 1912, namely, —Henrietta, now Mrs. Welton, of Climax; James, of Trinidad, Colorado; and Frank, the immediate subject of this review. In 1843 the Richardson family removed to Calhoun county where the father bought a tract of forty acres of land, which he cleared and began to farm. With the passage of time he gradually increased his original holdings and at the time of his demise, November 8, 1891, he was the owner of a fine estate of one hundred and sixty acres of most arable land. He was a Republican in his political proclivities and both he and his wife were Baptists in their religious faith, having been charter members of the North Athens Baptist church. Mrs. Richardson survived her honored husband for a number of years and she passed away February 18, 1906.

Frank W. Richardson passed his boyhood and youth on the old homestead farm and during his early life that estate was practically virgin wilderness, the home being a little log house. His preliminary educational training consisted of such advantages as were offered in the neighboring district schools and after reaching years of maturity he devoted his attention to farming operations. After his parents' death he bought out the other heirs to the home farm, where he now devotes his undivided attention to general farming and stock-raising. He is a horseman and at one time handled trotting stock. In politics he is an uncompromising Republican and he has acted as administrator for various estates. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church and in a fraternal way he is a valued and appreciative member of the Knights of the Maccabees.

February 6, 1878, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Richardson to Miss Lois M. Jacobs, a daughter of Robert and Helen (Monk) Jacobs, the former of whom was long a prominent farmer in LeRoy township. Mr. Jacobs died August 13, 1876, at the age of forty-two years; and his cherished and devoted wife died February 6, 1899, aged sixty years. Mr. and Mrs. Richardson are the parents of two daughters, namely,—Jessie, who is the wife of Ernest Leggett has four children; and Mae, who is Mrs. Edwin Hill. Mr. and Mrs. Hill reside in LeRoy township and they likewise have four children.

PETER J. HOUVENER. A prominent and particularly intelligent farmer of Burlington is Peter J. Houvener, a native of Barry county, and the son of Holland parents. His father, Peter Houvener, was born in Holland on April 11, 1835, and his mother, Elizabeth Johnson, on October 22, 1839. They were married in their native country in the year 1862, and there several of their children were born. In 1872 they came to the United States and immediately after landing came to Barry county, where they settled on their first farm—one of ninety-six acres. Mr. Houvener, senior, remained here throughout the rest of his life, which closed in 1904, his wife surviving him three years. They were people of a splendidly vigorous type and were the parents of twelve children, all of whom are still living.

Peter J. Houvener, the fifth child of his parents, was born in the Barry county home of Peter and Elizabeth Houvener, the same year as that in which the family was transplanted to this country, the date of his birth being May 25, 1872. He was educated in the public schools

Hosted by Google

and in the high schools of Prairie View and Richland, Kalamazoo county. In 1892 he was graduated from the latter school. He soon after married and began his independent activities.

Mrs. Houvener, nee Sarah J. Louden, is a daughter of William and El Dorado (Smith) Louden, her father having been a prominent farmer of Barry county. He died in 1908, but both her mother and her grandmother, the latter ninety-two years of age, are still living. Since the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Houvener, six children have come to enliven and bless their home. They are named Archie J., Jay J., Henry C., El Dorado, Hazel E. and Pauline Margaret. All are still in the parental home.

Twelve years of Mr. Houvener's active career was spent in farming. He then engaged in the livery business for five years in Delton. In 1909 he traded his interests in that line for a farm of 130 acres in Burlington township, Calhoun county. The years have brought him steady progress in a remunerative way and in the esteem of his fellowmen. As a loyal Republican he has been conspicuous in local politics, having served for four years as a deputy sheriff and being the present incumbent of the office of overseer of highways in Burlington township.

Mr. Houvener is an unusually well-read man for one engaged in a pursuit which makes such demands on one's time as agriculture. He is analytic in mind and very observant of surrounding conditions. He often writes for newspapers and articles of his have been frequently used by publications.

GUY FISK. It is an indisputable fact that there are no nobler professions known to man than the tilling of the soil for the production of food for mankind, and the fine and delicate task of husbanding the unformed minds of youth. Those two vocations have for nearly half a century been the mingled pursuits of Mr. Guy Fisk, who is well known both as a farmer and teacher throughout this region. No one understands better than he the problems of the rural school, which has from time to time during his life been the chosen field of his pedagogical endeavors and achievements.

The parents of the subject of the present sketch were Putnam Fisk and Eleanor Failing Fisk. Both were born in New York state, the former being a native of Yates county in that commonwealth. After their marriage they resided for a time in the same county, until in the year 1866 they removed to Park township, St. Joseph county, Michigan. Here Putnam Fisk purchased a farm of 160 acres; a second farm was later bought. He died in Centerville, Michigan, in February, 1904. He was a loyal Republican in politics and his eldest son, Samuel, gave up his life in the service of the national demand that all men be free and equal. Enlisting at the early age of 17 in Company C of the 6th Michigan Heavy Artillery, the young patriot served for eighteen months and died during the struggle. The family were connected with the Methodist church and active in the work connected therewith.

Guy Fisk, the fifth of his generation of his family, was born on February 2, 1857, while the family were still in Yates county, New York. His intellectual training was derived from the district schools of Branch and St. Joseph counties and in the public schools of Athens, where it was completed.

His first independent enterprise was the farming of 65 acres which he had purchased in the northern part of Athens township. Since 1876 he has followed teaching at various intervals, always returning to it with renewed freshness and zest and winning approbation often de-

Hosted by Google

nied to younger men. He is at present engaged in teaching the Pine Creek school of LeRoy township.

Mrs. Fisk was formerly Miss Bertha Nixon and her marriage to Mr. Fisk occurred in 1876. Her family were prominent farmers of Athens township and conspicuous among its early settlers. Her parents were Thomas and Frances (Blinston) Nixon and their family numbered three children, of whom Mrs. Fisk is the second.

Guy Fisk's well-known enthusiasm over higher education has doubtless been enhanced by the fact that he has successfully reared a family of four children. One daughter, Maud, is now the wife of Newell Billington; Eleanor, was married to William Wooley; Ernest, lives in Battle Creek, and Gladys at home is a senior in the Athens high school (1913).

The family are members of the Baptist church of Athens, both Mr. and Mrs. Fisk being consistent and active in all that pertains to their religious life. He has been very popular in fraternal circles, being a member of the Maccabees, of the Modern Woodmen of America, of the Grange, and of the Masonic order, in the Athens Lodge. Politically, Mr. Fisk has been frequently called upon to do public service as a staunch Republican and a loyal citizen. He has served as Township Supervisor, as Township Treasurer, as an official of the Board of Reviews, and as County Treasurer. He has two times been elected to the last-named important position of trust.

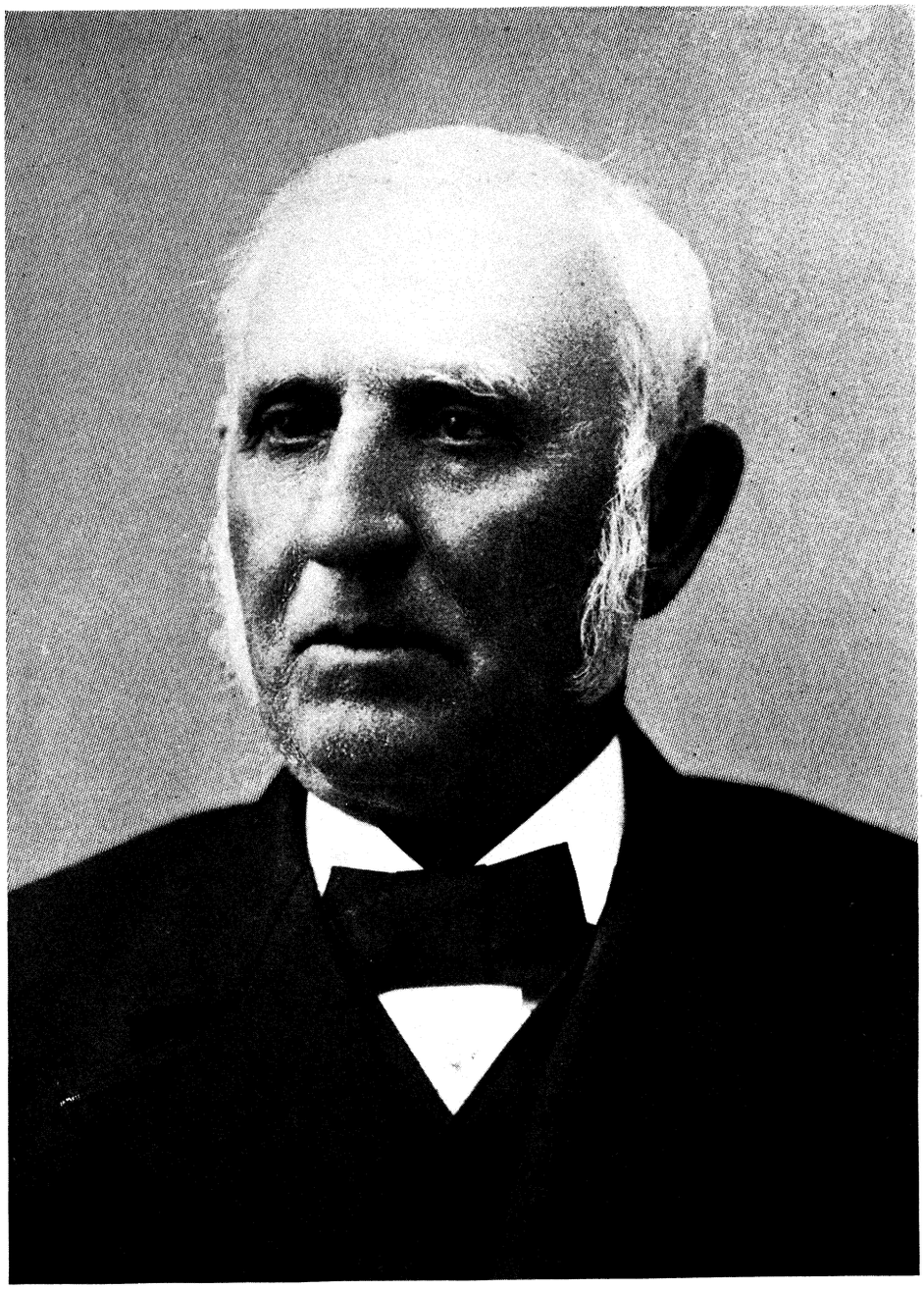
JOHN NICHOLS. The late John Nichols, one of the founders and for many years president of the Nichols & Shepard Company, was born at Liverpool, Onondaga County, New York, January 1, 1814, and died at his home 258 Maple street in Battle Creek, April 15, 1891.

It falls to the lot of a very few men in the world that their life industry and character became the foundation on which rests the material prosperity of a community. Mr. Nichols was in that class, and it can truthfully be said that his achievements as manufacturer and business leader have for half a century been one of the cornerstones of Battle Creek. He was one of the remarkable men of the last century whose work was largely creative and who kept to the forefront of the unprecedented advancement in all lines of material civilization. Personally he was a man of untiring industry, great executive capacity, indomitable energy and perseverance, so that in directing his enterprise into new fields he never faltered before the untried obstacles that often barred the way. Business sagacity was less an element in his success than solid ability to do and direct others in doing.

The late Mr. Nichols was the son of Eliakim and Sally Nichols, early settlers of western New York. The environment of his youth and the facilities of the age did not admit of his receiving much schooling in the modern sense, but he improved fully the opportunities he had. Owing to the limited circumstances of the family, he began seeking his own fortune when thirteen years old, and at Palmyra, New York, became apprentice to the moulder's and iron foundry trade. In time he was master of his trade, and it served as the basis for his subsequent independent career. When he was twenty years old, in 1834, he assumed the responsibilities of a home, and was married to Miss Nancy C. Galloway, of Marion, Wayne county, New York. They had an unusually long and happy wedded life, continuing some years beyond their golden anniversary, and Mrs. Nichols passed away December 26, 1892.

In the year following his marriage Mr. Nichols moved to Michigan, which was still a Territory, and settlement had only partially progressed over the southern counties of the present State. He lived on a farm

Hosted by Google



John Nichols

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

near Clinton, Lenawee county for one year. He then moved to Detroit and accepted a responsible position with the State of Michigan in their shops in that city for the building of what is now the Michigan Central Railroad. In the Presidential campaign of 1840 he was one of the most active and enthusiastic Whigs in the county, and in the later years of his life his reminiscences of early politics never failed to entertain the circle of his intimate friends. He continued in business in Detroit, for a time, but in 1848 became a permanent resident of Battle Creek.

In this town with whose industrial progress he was for so many years identified he first opened an establishment for the manufacture of stoves, plows and other farm implements and iron castings. Later his factory in addition turned out engines, sawmill and gristmill machinery. After a brief visit to California in 1850, when he "crossed the plains" with his company of five men, with three wagons and twelve horses, he returned and formed the partnership with David Shepard, which was the beginning of a firm name that has continued for more than sixty years and has an international reputation wherever agriculture flourishes. Their earliest output was one of the crude types of grain threshers in use during the decade of the '50s. They made a good machine, however, and they invented great improvements which soon made it the leading threshing machine of its day and generation, and their business has ever since kept abreast of the inventions and facilities of each succeeding decade. It was largely owing to the genius and practical business talent of Mr. Nichols that the product acquired its popularity, and in a few years the old shops on Canal street were unable to fill the orders for the "Vibrator" threshing machine as it was called. Then in 1870 an increase of capital was made, a stock company organized and the extensive works were built on the present site in the eastern part of the city, where the railway station on the Michigan Central and the Grand Trunk bears the name Nichols Station.

Beyond the notable achievement of building such an industry, Mr. Nichols possessed a generous public spirit and in many ways showed his interest in the welfare of the community. He was the first one to undertake the building of homes for the working men, and it was his joy and pride to furnish the ways and means to his employees for the building of comfortable homes which nearly all of them now own and enjoy. Enterprises for the extension of the city as a business center obtained his cordial co-operation, and the Nichols Memorial Hospital is a monument to his substantial interest in the cause of humanity and charity. From being one of the most ardent supporters of the old Whig party, he afterwards gave the allegiance equally loyal to the Republican principles. Though for many years a factor in politics, he never sought office and exerted his influence through his prominence as a private citizen. His robust and generous nature and his straightforward, open-hearted manner of dealing, made him a great favorite among all the employees of the extensive industry of which he was president. He was the father of three children. His daughter, Mrs. Helen N. Caldwell, died March 8, 1903, and a younger daughter Mary Elizabeth Nichols died in 1854. His son, Hon. Edwin C. Nichols, is president of Nichols & Shepard Company, and continues the varied influences and work begun by his honored father.

Mr. Nichols was a great lover of the forest and streams and an ardent sportsman in pursuit of large game. It was his special delight in the autumn of each year to take a party of invited friends into the wilds of the north and west for a hunting season. For forty-four successive years did he follow this most interesting habit and the "Vibrator" hunting party of which he was host and directing spirit,

Hosted by Google

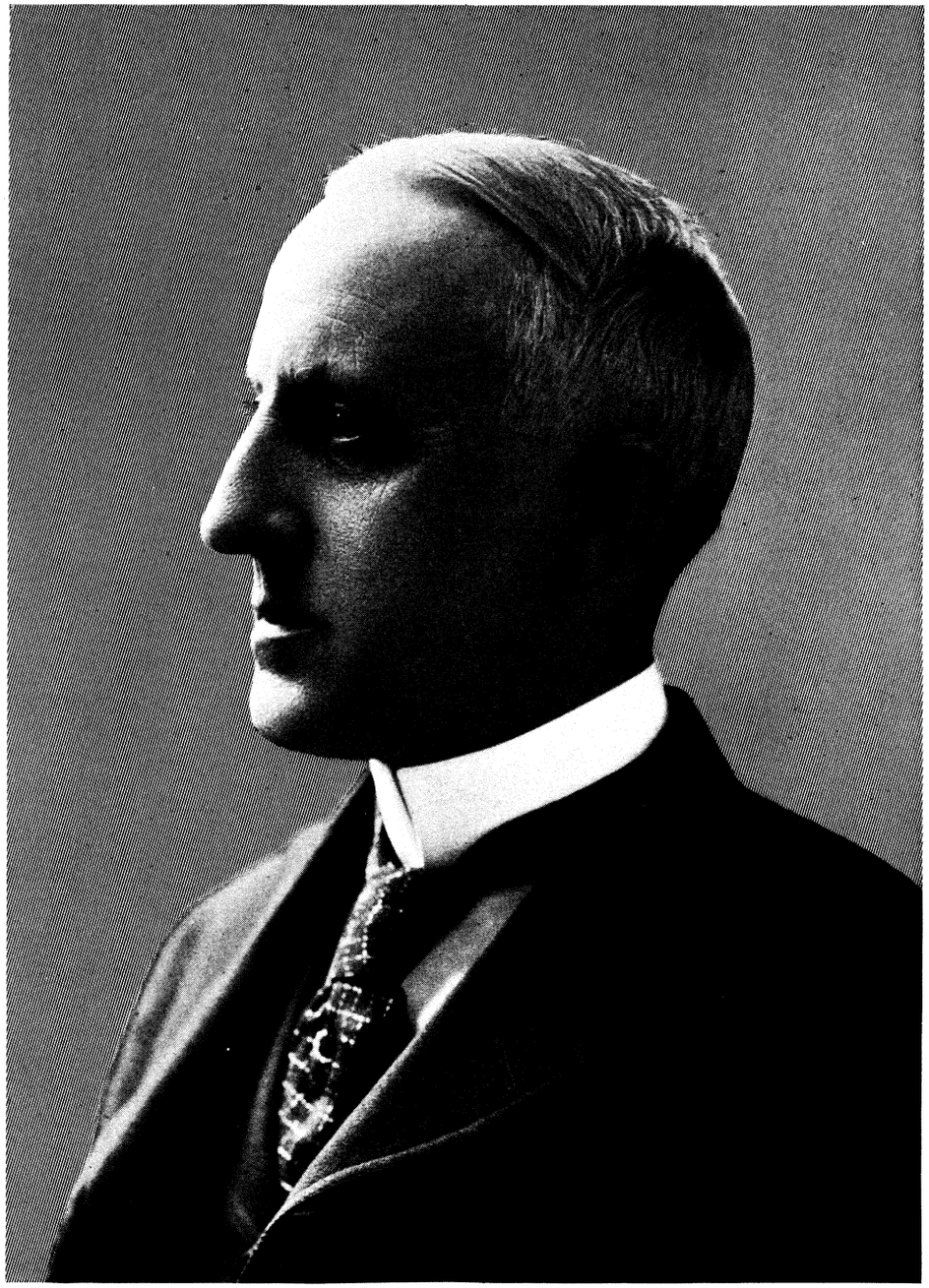
with its multitude of people, its great pack of hounds and the camp equipage and supplies for entertaining most royally his friends and the passers-by for many weeks, was one of the notable events of each season. Although not a great killer of game himself, he was extremely fond of offering the charms and comforts of his hunting camp to those who were so fortunate as to be his guests, and no locality was too distant and no natural obstacle too great to be overcome in his pursuit of this his yearly recreation. Many scores of men in Michigan and elsewhere will recall with interest and pleasure his generous hospitality in these regards.

HON. EDWIN C. NICHOLS. One of the really big men of Battle Creek today, one of the men who has had a guiding hand in her affairs for many years and has helped to bring wealth and honor to her name and to give her a more than local reputation, is the Honorable Edwin C. Nichols. He is not only a dominant figure in the industrial life of the city but he has figured largely in the political and social affairs of Battle Creek, and wherever his influence has been felt, it has been for the betterment of conditions, and for the advancement of whatever cause he has championed. He is the president of one of the largest manufacturing companies in Battle Creek,—the Nichols and Shepard Company, manufacturers of threshing machinery, and is vitally interested in other important industries in the city. Quite characteristic of the generosity and broad-mindedness of the man is the following, clipped from the *Evening News* of Battle Creek, for the first day of January, 1912: "You want me to write a New Years Greeting and wish. It will be Industrial Peace and Prosperity for every manufacturing concern in this city. Abundance of work at good wages for every man and woman who is employed. Health, peace, happiness and prosperity for each and every person in this growing city. In regard to my making a wish, will say that I made one some years ago, and the wish has come true.

"Years and years ago I made the wish that I might live to see the day when the Nichols and Shepard machines would be recognized all over the world, and Battle Creek should have fifty thousand people. It has come true—but will wish all a happy New Year."

Michigan is the native state of Edwin C. Nichols, for he was born in Lenawee county, in the town of Clinton, on July 20, 1838. His father was the late John Nichols, an account of whose life is given elsewhere in this volume. The Battle Creek Schools furnished Edwin C. Nichols with his education, and the business, of which his father was the founder, gave him his early experience in the latter field. He was brought up in this business, and starting in at the bottom learned it thoroughly in every detail. He is now president of the Nichols & Shepard Company, as has already been mentioned. This company was founded in 1848, and during the sixty-four years its existence has been of great importance to the industrial world. The first plant of the company was a small shop on Canal street, and there the founders of the company might be seen working side by side with their employees in the machinists department. John Nichols and his partner, David Shepard, had unlimited faith in the ultimate success of their ideas, and by their close attention to even the smallest detail of business, they lived to realize their expectations and witness with pardonable pride the achievements of a life time of work and energy. Since 1857 Hon. Edwin C. Nichols has been identified with the company, and to him is due the credit for the later successful enlargement of the industry. The officers of the company are: Edwin C. Nichols, presi-

Hosted by Google



Edwin C. Nichols

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

dent; F. G. Shepard, vice president; C. C. Beach, treasurer; W. R. Wooden, secretary; who, together with F. G. Shepard, H. C. Chatfield-Taylor, John T. Nichols, F. C. Stillson, F. J. Walbridge constitute the directorate of the company. The Nichols & Shepard plant is now located on Marshall street at the junction of the Michigan Central and Chicago & Grand Trunk Railways, and, including offices, buildings and grounds, covers about forty acres. Excellent shipping facilities are afforded as the yards are penetrated by sidings from both of these roads. The lumber yards and an immense dry kiln constitute a part of the plant, it being the rule of the company to keep on hand a two years supply of lumber. The employees of this extensive plant number from five to six hundred men, while from twenty-five to thirty are employed in the office. The establishment has a capacity of about seven hundred and fifty traction engines, fifteen hundred separators and two hundred and fifty horse-powers, which find a market in all parts of the world, and the aim of the industry, which is rightly entitled to a place among the foremost manufacturing institutions of the United States, is to anticipate every possible requirement in the line of threshing machinery.

The Red River Special line of threshing machinery is manufactured by this company, and they produce the only grain thresher that beats the grain out of the straw just as would be done by hand with a pitch fork, and it is capable of threshing more grain than can be delivered to it. They also manufacture a traction steam engine of nearly one hundred and fifty horse power, and an oil-gas tractor which can do one hundred horse power work. The latter is a new product of the big factory, and is so economical of fuel that it will revolutionize agricultural methods. The machine burns kerosene, gasolene or distillate, is so well governed that it is steadier than most gas engines, has its wearing parts so located that they can all be easily reached, and has numberless other features that make it an invention that promises great things.

In addition to his connection with the company which bears his name, Mr. Nichols is president and director of the Old National Bank of Battle Creek, is a director of the Commonwealth Power Railway and Light Company, and is interested in the Union Steam Pump Company. He is also interested in the Duplex Printing Press Company of Battle Creek, and in the Detroit Trust Company of Detroit, Michigan, of which he is a member of the directorate. He has other interests along these lines, too numerous to mention.

In politics, Mr. Nichols is a Republican and has taken more than a local interest in this important branch of American activity. He has been mayor of the city, serving one term, and has been alderman a number of terms. For many years he was president of the school board of Battle Creek and the city owes her good schools partly to his efforts. He was the first president of the Board of Public Works of this city, and in this capacity accomplished things that alone should win for him the undying gratitude of its citizens. He was a delegate to the national convention in 1884 that nominated James G. Blaine for president, and in 1907 was delegate to the Constitutional Convention. He has refused the nomination for congress several times and has twice refused the nomination for governor of the state of Michigan.

Being socially inclined and believing in the value of fraternal associations, Mr. Nichols is a member of a number of these. He is a Mason and a member of the Battle Creek Commandery of Knights Templar. He also belongs to the Athelstan Club and to the Country Club of Battle Creek. In Detroit he is a member of the Detroit Club, the De-

Hosted by Google

troit Country Club and the Yondatega Detroit Club, while he also holds membership in the Chicago Club of Chicago, Illinois.

His religious affiliations are with no particular church, but he is a liberal supporter of any which need his aid and gives freely to all denominations in the city. Generosity is one of his marked characteristics, and his charity is extensive, much of it never being heard of and remaining unknown to all save the giver and the recipient. The Nichols Memorial Hospital is an institution in which Mr. Nichols is much interested and one which feels the touch of his generous nature in a substantial manner.

In 1860 Edwin C. Nichols was married to Sarah J. Rowan, of Argyle, New York. She was a daughter of James Hyatt, and the marriage ceremony was celebrated in Battle Creek. She died in 1897, leaving three children. These are Mrs. Helen N. Newberry, of Chicago, Illinois; Mrs. Harriet Atterbury of Detroit, Michigan, and John T. Nichols, who is a prominent attorney in Detroit. All the children were born and partially educated in Battle Creek. The son received his literary and arts course in Cornell University, and took his graduate work in law in the Harvard Law school. Both of the daughters completed their educations in a seminary for young ladies near Boston, Massachusetts. The hospital and many other less conspicuous but hardly less valuable features of the city's life have been the medium through which Mr. Nichols has manifested his public spirit and ideals of citizenship. He is one of the vital forces in the progress of this community, and as the director of large industrial affairs he has helped maintain the solid prosperity of his home city. A city is great, not in its number of population, but in the work it performs, and that Battle Creek in the past and present has an important share of the world's work to its credit has been due in no small measure to the broad capacity and ability of Mr. Nichols and his father.

Ernest C. Hampton. During practically his entire active career thus far Ernest C. Hampton has been engaged in diversified agriculture and the raising of high-grade stock in Athens township, Calhoun county, Michigan, where he was born, reared and educated. The date of his nativity is the 19th of April, 1867, and he is a son of Charles S. and Josephine (Debow) Hampton, both of whom were born in New York, the former May 20, 1837, and the latter May 7, 1838. The parents were married in Athens township, Calhoun county, this state, in December, 1863, and they became the parents of two children, namely,—May E., who is now the wife of R. B. Richards; and Ernest C., the immediate subject of this review. Charles S. Hampton came to Michigan, with his parents, in 1856 and his wife came hither with her parents in 1855. He was a son of Robert and Eliza (Stone) Hampton, who located in Athens township on a farm of eighty acres shortly after their arrival in Michigan. One half of this old farm is still in the Hampton family. Robert Hampton died in 1862, and at that time his son Charles was a soldier in Company H, Second Missouri Cavalry, under command of General Fremont. Charles Hampton served in the Civil war for a period of years and during that time figured in some of the important battles marking the progress of the conflict. After the close of hostilities and when peace had again been established he returned to Athens township, where he followed farming for the remainder of his life time. He entered a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Minnesota but later traded the same for land in Michigan. At the time of his demise, May 14, 1907, he was the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and nineteen acres and his cherished and

Hosted by Google

devoted wife, who still survives him, is now living on that estate. In politics Mr. Hampton was aligned as a stalwart supporter of the principles and policies for which the Republican party stands sponsor and in a fraternal way he was affiliated with the Grange and the Grand Army of the Republic. He was a man of liberal ideas and broad human sympathy and he was ever ready to lend a helping hand to those less fortunately situated in life than himself. He was a devout member of the Baptist church in his religious faith and his wife is still connected with that denomination.

Ernest C. Hampton, whose name forms the caption for this review, was reared and educated in Athens township and as a youth he became associated with his father in the work and management of the old home farm. In 1905 he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, the same being located five miles distant from Athens, and he continued to operate that estate until 1912, when he sold the place. He has since resided on the old homestead with his mother and devotes his entire time and attention to the management of that beautiful old farm. In his political convictions he is a Republican and in the time-honored Masonic order he is affiliated with Lodge, No. 220, Free and Accepted Masons, at Athens.

August 8, 1897, Mr. Hampton married Miss Cora Olds, a daughter of Orlando and Emmeline (Vreeland) Olds, the former of whom died January 4, 1912, at the age of seventy-seven years, and the latter of whom is now living in Tekonsha township, Branch county, where she and her husband were old pioneers. Mr. and Mrs. Hampton have no children.

ELBERT J. RADFORD. Conspicuous among the leading citizens in Athens township, Calhoun county, Michigan, Elbert J. Radford is most successfully engaged in general farming and the raising of high-grade stock on his fine estate of eighty acres, the same being eligibly located two and one-half miles distant from Athens. He is a man of excellent business judgment and is broad-minded in connection with all matters forwarded for progress and improvement.

A native son of Michigan, Elbert J. Radford was born in LeRoy township, Calhoun county, this state, the date of his birth being the 29th of March, 1870. He is a son of Charles F. and Martha (Scott) Radford, the former of whom is mentioned elsewhere in this work. Mr. Radford was educated in the district schools of LeRoy township and in the Battle Creek high school. As a boy he worked on his father's farm and after completing his educational training he returned home and remained under the parental roof until he had reached his twenty-fifth year. In 1895 he rented a farm in LeRoy township and launched into business on his own account. Four years later he purchased a farm in that township, the same comprising sixty acres, and he operated that estate for the ensuing eight years. In 1909 he bought the farm on which he now resides, this one being eighty acres in area and lying in Athens township. He started life with practically nothing but energy and a determination to forge ahead and through his own well directed endeavors he has made of success not an accident but a logical result. Substantial buildings beautifully located in the midst of well cultivated fields are the best indication of his ability as a good manager and well versed agriculturist.

In politics Mr. Radford maintains an independent attitude, preferring to give his support to men and measures meeting with the approval of his judgment rather than to vote along strictly partisan lines. He served for three years as a member of the board of trustees at East LeRoy and he is now a member of the Athens school board.

Hosted by Google

In 1897 Mr. Radford was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Morgan, a daughter of Jabez Morgan, who came to Michigan from New York in the old pioneer days and who settled in Calhoun county, where he passed the residue of his lifetime and where he died at the venerable age of eighty-four years. A history of the Morgan family is given in a sketch of William Morgan, brother of Jabez, the same appearing on other pages of this edition. Mr. and Mrs. Radford are the parents of three children, whose names are here in respective order of birth,—Amy, Elmer, and Anna. In religious matters the Radford family are devout members of the First Methodist Episcopal church at Athens.

ALONZO D. STARK, the cheery and obliging druggist of Burlington, was born at South Lansing, in Thompson county, New York, on July 14, 1849. He was the son of George D. Stark, whose birth occurred in Plains, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, February 18, 1804, and who located in New York in his early youth. His first wife was Elizabeth Page and during their life together five children came to them. But their mother's life was cut short in its prime, after which George Stark was again married. The second mistress of his home was a New York lady, who in her girlhood was Miss Catherine Sarverschool. After her marriage with Mr. Stark ten children were born, of whom Alonzo was the sixth, and among whom only one other is now living. The family removed to Michigan in the year 1866, locating on a farm on 103 acres, which was George Stark's home until his death in 1885. Mrs. Stark is also now deceased.

At the time when his father took up his residence in Michigan, Alonzo Stark was about seventeen years of age. His education which had thus far been profitably pursued in the excellent school system of New York, was now continued in the Burlington schools until the young man was 21 years of age, being then well equipped for a life not only of usefulness but also of intelligent enjoyment of all beneficent opportunities. Mr. Stark began farming, which vocation he pursued successfully for a number of years. On October 22, 1875, he won as his wife Miss Elizabeth M. Keville; her birthplace was on the Isle of Guernsey, her parents being the Reverend Edward and Lucy (La Page) Keville. To Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Stark no children have been born. The only brother of the former. Charles Stark. resides on the old homestead which was the first home of both when they came to Michigan.

The agricultural life did not quite satisfy all the demands of Mr. Stark's commercially talented nature. He therefore turned, in 1883, to the drug business. Opening a pharmacy in Burlington, he has ever since catered successfully and satisfactorily to the needs of the people of this place. Mr. Stark is, as was his father, a Democrat of sturdy type. He is not, however, a politician of the type whose allegiance principles are merely hereditary. He is a rational, loyal citizen and one who has a deep interest in questions touching the public good. Although somewhat retiring in his attitude toward office-holding, he has been induced to accept the office of Township Treasurer, the duties of which he has ably discharged for two years. Mr. Stark is a popular member of the K. O. T. M.

CHARLES J. MILLER is a decidedly progressive farmer and stock-raiser in Burlington township, Calhoun county, Michigan, where he is the owner of a well cultivated estate of two hundred acres. His loyalty and public-spirited interest in local affairs have ever been of the most insistent order and he is now serving his community as justice of the peace.

Hosted by Google

A native of Calhoun county, Michigan, Charles J. Miller was born in Tekonsha township August 24, 1870. He is a son of Charles H. Miller, whose birth occurred in Ohio, January 29, 1840. The father spent his early life in the Buckeye state and there was educated in the common schools. At the time of the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted as a soldier in Company I, Ninety-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served in the war for a period of thirty-four months and during that time participated in a number of the most important engagements marking the progress of the war. In 1866 he married Sarah A. Davis, a daughter of James and Sarah Davis, residents of Ohio. To this union ten children were born, as follows,—James D. is engaged in farming in Calhoun county, Michigan; William L. is a resident of Kalamazoo county; Frank D. maintains his home at Marshall, Michigan; Charles J. is the immediate subject of this review; Ralph Rose resides in Calhoun county; Mary L. makes her home in Battle Creek, as does also Anna M.; Pearl lives near Pattersonville, Ohio; George B. resides at Aberdeen, Washington; and Earl is deceased. After his marriage Charles H. Miller came to Calhoun county and located in Burlington township on a farm. Two years later he purchased a farm of eighty acres in Tekonsha township and resided thereon until 1884, when he removed to the village of Tekonsha, where he is still living in retirement. He was unusually successful in his various business ventures during his active career and before retirement had gained a competency. In politics he is a stalwart Republican and his religious faith is in harmony with the tenets of the Methodist Episcopal church. He retains interest in his old comrades in arms and signifies the same by membership in Worth Post, Grand Army of the Republic.

Mr. Miller, of this notice, passed his boyhood and youth in Tekonsha township and he was graduated in the Tekonsha high school. He remained at the parental home until he had reached his legal majority and after his marriage, in 1892, he rented a farm north of Tekonsha, where he resided for five years, at the expiration of which he located on a dairy farm in Battle Creek township. Subsequently he resided for one year in Athens township and there was the owner of an estate of one hundred and sixty acres. In 1905 he purchased the Lilly Farm, which was formerly known as the McNeal Farm and which comprises two hundred acres. In addition to diversified agriculture Mr. Miller raises a great deal of thoroughbred stock. He is breeding Guernsey cattle, Ramble A. Sheep and Duroc Jersey hogs and as a stock raiser has met with remarkable success.

In his political convictions Mr. Miller is aligned as a stalwart in the ranks of the Republican party, in the local councils of which he has taken an active part. He was highway commissioner in Battle Creek township for two years and is now, in 1912, serving his second term as justice of the peace of Burlington township. For six years he has been a member of the board of school directors and he ranks as an energetic and progressive citizen, to whom the advance of the general welfare is as important as his own personal aggrandizement. He is affiliated with the Grange and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In the year 1892, at Tekonsha, Michigan, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Miller to Miss Ruth Thayer, a daughter of A. E. and Carrie (Kyes) Thayer, the former of whom is engaged in the rug business in the city of Battle Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have one son, Leo E., whose birth occurred in 1898 and who is now a pupil in the district schools of Burlington township. The Miller home is one of generous hospitality and is the scene of many social gatherings.

Hosted by Google

FRED KATZ ranks as one of the prominent and successful farmers of Newton township, Calhoun county, Michigan, where he is the owner of a finely improved estate of two hundred and ten acres, the same being eligibly located eleven miles distant from the city of Battle Creek.

In Newton township, Calhoun county, Michigan, February 9, 1869, occurred the birth of Fred Katz, whose father, Fred Katz, Sr., was born in Fredonia township, this county, in 1834. Peter Katz, paternal grandfather of the subject of this review, was the original progenitor of the Katz family in America. He came hither from Germany, where he was born, he located on a farm in Fredonia township, where he was engaged in agricultural operations until his demise, in 1876. Fred Katz, Sr., married Addie Finney, of Burlington township, and to this union were born five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Katz married Elmer E. Ingles, of Burlington; she passed to eternal rest in 1912.

Fred Katz spent the early years of his life in Fredonia township and after his father's demise he was sent to live with an uncle, Peter Katz, in Newton township. He was a member of his uncle's household for a period of five years and at the age of twelve years he began to care for himself. He received but very meagre educational advantages and his first manual labor was at a farm hand in Fredonia township, where he worked for a period of eight months. He then came to Newton township and remained here for about five years, when he returned to Fredonia, remaining there four months. Later he was again employed in Newton township, working for Jesse Underwood for two years. After his marriage, in 1890, he was engaged in farming on a rented estate in Newton township for one year and at the end of that period he rented another farm in the same township. Subsequently he went to East LeRoy, where he farmed for one year and whence he went to Fredonia township. In 1908 he decided to settle down permanently and in that year purchased the Rapp Farm, which comprises two hundred and ten acres and which is located in Newton township. He devotes his attention to general farming and has a large and well cared for estate. In politics he is an unswerving supporter of the principles and policies for which the Democratic party stands sponsor and while he does not take an active part in local politics he is ever on the alert and enthusiastically in sympathy with all measures and enterprises forwarded for progress and improvement.

In 1890 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Katz to Miss Della B. Kirkland, who was born in Newton township, this county, and who is a daughter of Thomas and Naomi (Colbert) Kirkland. Mr. Kirkland was long a prominent farmer in Newton township and both his parents were natives of England. Mr. and Mrs. Katz are the proud parents of eight children, as follows,—Victor is engaged in farming on his own account in Fredonia township; Grover likewise lives in Fredonia township; and Edwin, Newman, Fred, Zeno, Delbert and Lola all remain at the parental home.

JESSE PUFF. On a finely improved estate of one hundred and twenty acres in Newton township, Calhoun county, Michigan, Jesse Puff is most successfully engaged in diversified agriculture and the raising of high-grade stock. He has resided in Newton township during the entire period of his life time thus far and here he commands the confidence and esteem of all who have known him from earliest youth.

Jesse Puff was born in Newton township February 7, 1880, and he is a son of Paul Puff, a sketch of whose career appears elsewhere in

Hosted by Google

this work, so that further data at this point regarding the family history is not deemed necessary. Mr. Puff was educated in the Francisco school in Newton township and he passed his boyhood and youth on the old homestead farm, in the work and management of which he early began to assist his father. Mr. Puff inherited a farm of eighty acres, adjoining his present estate, and there he resided for a number of years after his marriage, in 1902. Eventually disposing of that place, he bought his present farm, which comprises a hundred and twenty acres of some of the most arable land in Calhoun county. He settled on this farm in 1908 and through careful methods he has gained a reputation as one of the most expert farmers in his community. In politics he is a stanch Republican and he is a man of progressive ideas and unusual energy. He is a great believer in higher education, is exceedingly well read and devotes all his spare time to study and reading. He is a man of broad human hympathy and his innate kindliness of spirit has won to him the friendship of all with whom he has come in contact.

In 1902 Mr. Puff married Miss Ella Boynton, a daughter of Fred and Lyda Boynton, of Calhoun county. Mrs. Puff was born in Mattawan, Michigan, May 30, 1886, and she was the only child by the first marriage of her father. By his second marriage Mr. Boynton has two sons and three daughters. Mr. and Mrs. Puff became the parents of three children, one of whom, Florence, is deceased. Those living are Robert and Lyda, who are attending school in Newton township.

CHAUNCEY H. AVERY. One of the best known and most successful farmers in Calhoun county is Chauncey H. Avery, whose farm is located in Newton township. Mr. Avery is a natural farmer, one of the kind that is born, not made, and he feels that if he were to be taken away from his farm, he would be utterly lost, and would find it impossible to adjust himself to new surroundings, so firmly is the love of the soil and the life of the farm ingrained in his nature. Such a man is a valuable acquisition to any community for no man who has not something innately fine and big in his nature can care for the smell of fresh earth just turned up by the plow, or love the birds and the little wild things of the woods. Recognizing therefore, the fineness of Mr. Avery's character, his neighbors have accorded him the fullest measure of respect and admiration.

Scadekuk, on the Hudson river, in New York state was the scene of Mr. Avery's birth, the date being the 5th of May, 1848. He was the son of William Avery, who was born at Mattewan, New York. Here he was employed in a cotton factory, and here he spent his entire life, dying in 1852. He married Sarah Waite of Norwedge, New York. The Avery family dates back to the early part of the sixteenth century, and since coming to America, have lived for the most part in the state of New York. William and Sarah Avery were the parents of three children, namely: William Louis, Chauncey and Margaret, who is now Mrs. Franklin. After the death of the father and husband Mrs. Avery moved back to the home of her girlhood. Norwedge, New York, and after a time she was re-married to Benjamin Franklin, who was a prominent farmer of the section.

The early life of Chauncey Avery was spent in the state of New York, mainly in the town of Guilford. He received a fair amount of education, but his heart was set on becoming a farmer, and as soon as he had an opportunity he took up this occupation, although he was little more than a boy. He soon added a dairy business to his farm, and rapidly became known as one of the successful young men of the county. He followed the combined business of farming and dairying

Hosted by Google

until 1871 when he determined to try his fortune in the west, and migrated to Michigan, locating in Calhoun county. The farm which he selected was situated in Burlington township, and here he lived for three years. That he was successful was proven by the fact that when he returned to New York state, he was able to buy a farm. He lived here for over fifteen years, but the charm of the Michigan country drew him back, and in 1891, we find him again in Calhoun county, searching for a place to locate. He finally found a farm that suited him in Athens township. This farm of one hundred acres was located three miles to the north of Athens, and here he lived for three years. He then moved to a farm in Newton township, later removing to his present home, on the Coates farm. Mr. Avery is not in very good health, and is not able to do as much of the active work on the farm as he would like, but his is the head that plans and the hand that directs. For this reason, not knowing when he may have to give up farming altogether, he has not bought his present place.

In 1870, Mr. Avery was married to Lena A. Wood, the daughter of Dewain and Lucinda (Reynolds) Wood, of Smyrna, Chenango county, New York. In politics, Mr. Avery is a Democrat, and is an ardent supporter of the party. He is not a member of any religious denomination but attends church regularly, as his health permits.

Mr. and Mrs. Avery are the parents of nine children, all of whom are alive. Jessie is now Mrs. Button, of Le Roy township; Fidelia is Mrs. Worth, of Athens township; Harry is a contractor and lives in Toronto, Canada; Clarence lives nearby in Battle Creek, where he owns the largest livery in Battle Creek; Mae, also resides in Battle Creek, as the wife of Mr. Davis; Maude is Mrs. Hayes, of Athens township; Bertha married Mr. Lehman and lives in LeRoy township; Emery is also a resident of LeRoy and Grace is the wife of P. C. Farman of LeRoy township.

WILLIAM H. HAMMOND, postmaster of Burlington and proprietor of a grocery and feed store in this town, is one of the best known men in the county. He has been identified with the business interests of this section of the country for a number of years, and is a native born resident of the state, his birth taking place in Branch county on July 19, 1871. He is the son of John and Sarah (Schrambeling) Hammond. The father was born in New York state on October 17, 1838, and was himself the son of Amos Hammond, who died when John Hammond was a small boy, the death of his mother occurring when he was an infant. He came to Lenawee county, Michigan, with his father, when a mere child, and after the death of his father made his home with his uncle, Thomas Lewin, who was the owner and proprietor of a saw mill. He worked about the mill until his marriage, after which he engaged in farming in Lenawee county for about two years, then went to Branch county where he became similarly engaged, and he followed farming for the remainder of his life. He acquired a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land and was known for one of the prosperous men of his community. He and his wife became the parents of five children: Frank, the eldest, died in 1900. Laverne lives in Sherwood, township, Branch county. George is a resident of Elgin, Illinois. William H. of Burlington, and Julia, who died at the age of fourteen years. Mr. Hammond died in 1885, and his widow survived him until 1908.

As a boy, William Hammond attended the district schools of Branch county, also the schools of Colon, St. Joseph county, and was graduated from the Colon high school in 1889. He took up the butcher trade and

Hosted by Google

followed that business until 1908, with the exception of an interval of three years which he spent on a farm near Marshall in Calhoun county. In 1903 he came to Burlington and here operated a meat market for some time, and in 1906 he moved to a farm in the vicinity of Marshall, where he remained for three years, after which he moved to Charlotte, Eaton county, where he engaged in the butcher business and continued in that enterprise for five years. He once more moved to Burlington and opened a grocery and meat shop, in which business he continued until 1907. In that year he was appointed postmaster of Burlington, and he is still the incumbent of that office which is of the fourth class variety, and which Mr. Hammond has handled in a manner wholly satisfactory to all concerned. After his appointment to that office, Mr. Hammond gave up his butcher business, and now conducts a grocery and feed store in conjunction with the postoffice, a business in which he is especially successful and prosperous. Mr. Hammond is a Republican in his political belief and is active in the interests of the party in his locality. He has been able to give some time to the administration of township affairs, and in 1906 was treasurer of Burlington township. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons.

On June 22, 1906, Mr. Hammond was united in marriage with Dora Gleason, daughter of Joseph and Lucy (Page) Gleason, who were the parents of four children; Mary, the eldest, is the wife of James Spoor: Newman is a resident of Los Angeles, California; Lizzie, is the wife of Holden Sprague, and Dora married W. H. Hammond of Burlington.

RUSSELL W. RAPP. Since reaching years of manhood Russell W. Rapp has shared his time between the butcher business and the farming industry, but of late years he has given up the former business and has devoted himself exclusively to farming interests, and is regarded in Newton township as one of the foremost men connected with the agricultural line in this section of the county. His father and his grandfather were both identified with Newton township as farmers, and both ended their lives on the farm which the subject now owns and operates. Russell W. Rapp was born in Fredonia township on November 4 1880, and is the son of Fred Rapp, born in Germany in 1852. Fred Rapp came to America with his parents when he was eight years of age. He was the son of Fred Rapp, Sr., and his wife, and the family settled at Marshall, Calhoun county, where the father followed farming in that township. In 1896 the founder of the family in America died on the Newton township farm, whereon he had passed many years in pursuit of his farming interests. His son, Fred Rapp Jr., the father of Russell W., grew to manhood on the home farm in Newton township which his father acquired shortly after locating in Calhoun county. This was a tract of one hundred and fifty acres, and it is adjoined by a farm of one hundred and twenty five acres owned by the subject, who also is the owner of the old homestead. Fred Rapp married Lennie Francisco, the daughter of Sylvester and Hannah J. (Easterley) Francisco, also of Newton township, and old and highly respected citizens. Of their son, Henry E., the brother of Mrs. Fred Rapp, a life sketch is to be found elsewhere in the pages of this historical work. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rapp, Jr.; Lena, now Mrs. Winfield Pullman; Will, in the laundry business in Battle Creek; Russell, of this review; Louise, the wife of Nile Toland of Battle Creek, and Ruth, who remains with her mother, in Marshall. The greater part of Fred Rapp's life was spent on the home farm in Newton, although he passed ten years in Fredonia, after which he re-

Hosted by Google

turned to the farm and remained for the rest of his life. He died in August, 1903, and his widow still survives him. Mr. Rapp was a Democrat, and during his lifetime held a number of township offices of some importance. He was an exemplary citizen and ever exerted a worthy influence in his home and in the community.

Russell Rapp was educated in the district schools of his township and in the high school at Marshall. His education completed he returned to the farm and thereafter carried on the work of the place until 1900, when he went to Marshall and entered the cold storage business as an employee. He continued thus for one year, then returned to Newton township and purchased a farm of sixty acres. After three years he sold his place and once more located in Marshall, entering the butcher business. This enterprise held his attention until 1908, when he moved to Homer and opened a similar establishment there, and in a year's time gave up the business and returned to the home farm, which his mother still owns, and which he continues to operate.

On October 19, 1899, Mr. Rapp was united in marriage with Miss Ada Stine, daughter of Louis Stine, a business man of Ann Arbor. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Rapp,—Esther Louise, Gladys Ruth, Roscoe Fred, Winfield Wayne, Norma, Donald, and Douglass, twins, and Louis. The family are members of the Congregational church, and Mr. Rapp is a Democrat.

HENRY E. FRANCISCO is one of the well known farming men of Newton township, where he has lived all his life thus far. In fact, he lives on the farm on which he was born March 15, 1864, and which has been in the family for three generations. Henry Francisco's father, Sylvester Francisco, who was born in Bristol county, New York state, in 1824, came to Michigan as a boy with his father and mother, Thomas and Lydia Francisco. They located on the farm now held by their grandson, Henry E., and there they ended their days. Sylvester bought out the interest of the other heirs in the old homestead, and settled down to the quiet life which his father before him had led, and he passed his remaining days in the old home. He married Hannah J. Easterly on April 14, 1851, and they became the parents of eight children: Lennie, now Mrs. Fred Rapp; Bertie, the wife of P. Hughes; Jennie, who married Albert Underwood, is now deceased; John, a resident of Battle Creek, Michigan; Will J., deceased; Nelson C., a resident of Newton township; Henry E., of this review, and Louise, now Mrs. Hallern. Sylvester Francisco was a Republican in his political faith, and was ever an exemplary citizen and a man of influence in his community. His death, which occurred on December 29, 1873, was a decided loss to the township in which he had spent practically all his life, and was keenly felt by all who knew him. Mrs. Francisco, who was born on November 2, 1826, is still living at the advanced age of eighty-six years, and makes her home with her son, Henry E., of this sketch.

The boyhood life of Mr. Francisco was as uneventful as that of most of the youth of our country. He spent a deal of his time at work upon the farm, and attended the district schools in the winter seasons, which practically constituted the extent of his education, from the stand-point of booklearning. However, he has acquired a broad and useful knowledge of life which he could not cull from books, and he is a studious and practical farmer, all of which removes him from the condition of an uneducated man. Mr. Francisco has carried on the work of the farm since his father's death in 1873, and is now the owner of the home stead. The farm, while not large, is ample for his needs, comprising

Hosted by Google

a tract of one hundred and sixteen acres, and in its excellent state of cultivation, is as productive as a much larger tract might be in a less cultivated state. It is sufficiently large to require all his time and attention, and affords ample scope for his energies.

Mr. Francisco, like his father, is a Republican, but has no political ambitions, another point of similarity to his honored parent. He has been justice of the peace for a number of years, but is not in office at the present time. He is a member of the Congregational church, with his family, and is associated fraternally with the Maccabee lodge.

On February 15, 1888, Mr. Francisco was married to Miss Nina Carnes, daughter of William G. and Martha A. (Francisco) Carnes of Newton township. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Francisco,—Buell, Blaine, Mattie B. and William B.

The family is one of great sociability and strong personal attachments, and the yearly re-union of the house of Francisco is an event that is looked forward to by all who are privileged to share in the happy gathering.

PAUL PUFF. Among the prosperous agricultural men of Newton township, none is more worthy of mention in this historical and biographical work than is Paul Puff, a resident of this township since 1873, which year marked his arrival on American shores as a youthful emigrant from the German Fatherland. He has been the author of large and worthy accomplishments in the development work of this section of the country, both industrially and in a commercial way, and much of the constant and ever moving progress of the township is directly traceable to the vigor and enterprise of Paul Puff.

Born in Wurtemberg, Germany, on June 25, 1853, Mr. Puff is the son of John and Martha Josephine Puff, both natives of Wurtemberg. The father went to the Italian wars and never returned. The mother still lives in the old home in Germany. The son, Paul, was educated in the common schools of his native land, and when he was twenty years old came to America, arriving in Newton township in 1873, and locating on a piece of land two miles from his present home. This was a tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres and for two years he worked on it in partnership with another man. The association proved an unfortunate one for Mr. Puff, for he lost everything he put into the deal, in both time and money, and was obliged to begin once more where he started on his arrival in America. He secured another farm of one hundred and sixty acres, part of it wild and uncultivated, and he lived for twenty-five years on that spot. In the years of his residence here he estimates that he has himself cleared one hundred acres of land in this township. He later purchased the farm on which he now lives, which consists of one hundred and forty acres, in addition to which he owns another one hundred and sixty acre tract of valuable farm land. In the years of his residence here Mr. Puff has owned five fine farms in the township, three of which number he still retains.

Mr. Puff is unquestionably one of the most enterprising and progressive men of this locality, and his influence and vigor has been felt in business circles for many years. He was one of the chief promoters of the electric road now contemplated, and he operates one of the finest summer resorts known to this section of the country on the banks of the Lee Lake, one of the finest lakes in southern Michigan, and particularly suited to such a purpose on account of its fine gravel shore and suitable surroundings.

In 1876 Mr. Puff married Eliza Hughes, a daughter of John and Catherine Hughes of Newton township. They have one child, Jessie

Hosted by Google

J. Puff, now living in Newton township. Mrs. Puff died in 1880, and in 1894 Mr. Puff married Bertha Rolfe, a German girl who came to America in 1893. They have four children,—Harlan Louis, Alice Catherine, Genevieve Louise and Lawrence Emery.

The family are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Puff is a Democrat in his political convictions, and has held various school offices in the township. He is an automobilist.

JAMES C. VAN TUYLE. An enterprising and influential citizen of LeRoy township, Calhoun county, Michigan, is James C. Van Tuyle, who was formerly engaged in agricultural pursuits in this section of the state but who now devotes his attention to the conduct of his well stocked store at Sonoma. He is interested in all that tends to further the general welfare of his home community and has served LeRoy township in the capacity of highway commissioner and treasurer.

A native son of Michigan, James C. Van Tuyle was born in Battle Creek township, Calhoun county, February 2, 1868, and he is a son of James W. Van Tuyle, whose birth occurred at Barrie, New York, January 12, 1842. At the age of two years the father came with his parents, James and Rhoda (Gould) Van Tuyle, to Michigan. James Van Tuyle was born at Greenville, New York, November 2, 1805, and his wife, whose maiden name was Rhoda Gould, was born in the same place March 8, 1809. They were married at Parma, New York, March 10, 1830. Seven children were born to them and of the number James W. was the fifth in order of birth. James Van Tuyle died at LeRoy, Michigan, September 24, 1865, and his cherished and devoted wife passed away in Louisiana, August 30, 1892. On coming to Michigan, the Van Tuyle family located in Battle Creek township, Calhoun county, and here James W. grew to manhood. After completing his education in the district schools he turned his attention to farming and was engaged in that line of enterprise in Battle Creek township until 1900 when removal was made to Louisiana, where the family continued to reside until Mrs. Van Tuyle's death. Mr. Van Tuyle in now living in Sonoma with his son. He married, December 27, 1862, Catherine Minor, a daughter of William Minor, of Battle Creek township. To this union were born seven children, of whom the subject of this notice was the second in order of birth.

James C. Van Tuyle was educated in the district schools of his native place and at the age of thirteen years he started to work out on various farms by the month. After his marriage, in 1890, he followed farming and gardening until 1909 when he purchased a general store in the village of Sonoma. His store is well stocked with high-class groceries and merchandise and an extensive and lucrative trade is controlled in LeRoy township and the country normally tributary thereto. He is an unusually capable and shrewd business man and inasmuch as his admirable success in life is the direct result of his own efforts it is the more gratifying to contemplate. He is noted for his fair and honorable dealings and is held in high esteem by all with whom he has come in contact. In politics he is a stanch supporter of the Republican party and for three years he was incumbent of the office of highway commissioner. He was elected township treasurer and he held that office for a period of two years. In a fraternal way he is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and with the time-honored Masonic order.

October 3, 1890, Mr. Van Tuyle married Melvinnie Wright, eldest of the three children born to Cornelius and Anna (Lemcoll) Wright, the

Hosted by Google

former of whom is a prominent farmer in Kalamazoo county, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Van Tuyle have an adopted daughter, Edith.

DELOS HUTCHINS, who is living virtually retired at Sonoma, Calhoun county, Michigan, is a fine old veteran of the Civil war. He was born in New York but has been a resident of Michigan during the greater part of his active career. He was engaged in farming operations in LeRoy township for many years but he is now spending the evening of his life in retirement, enjoying to the full the fruits of former toil and endeavor. As a citizen he has ever been loyal and public spirited and he gives freely of his aid and influence in support of all measures and enterprises projected for the good of the general welfare.

In Seneca county, New York, October 8, 1840, occurred the birth of Delos Hutchins, a son of James Hutchins, who was born in New York in 1814. The father was a mill wright by trade and during much of his life time he conducted a saw mill in Seneca county, New York. James Hutchins married, Mrs. Lorenzie (Hutchins) Weeds, a cousin. This union was prolific of three children, as follows,—Delos, the immediate subject of this review; Harriet, the wife of John Joslyn, of Rochester, New York; and Cicero, deceased. Mrs. Hutchins passed to the life eternal in 1850, at the age of thirty-eight years, and he passed away in 1892, aged seventy-eight years. He was a Republican in his political convictions and in religious matters attended and gave his support to the Baptist church, of which his wife was a devout member.

Delos Hutchins passed his boyhood and youth in the Empire state of the Union and he was educated in the public schools of South Butler, New York. At the age of eighteen years he came to Michigan, arriving in Battle Creek September 26, 1858, at which time he enrolled as a student in Olivet College. He completed a two-years' collegiate course and at the outbreak of the Civil war immediately offered his services as a volunteer, enlisting as a private in Company A, Sixth Michigan Infantry. His company participated in the siege of Port Hudson, the battle of Baton Rouge and in a number of engagements along the banks of the Mississippi river. When war was declared Delos Hutchins received a letter from his father telling him that unless he went to war to uphold the rights of the Union, he, the father, would feel bound to do so. Delos, realizing the advanced age of his father, immediately enlisted and he acquitted himself with all of honor and distinction in the capacity of soldier. After the close of hostilities and when peace had again been established throughout the country, Mr. Hutchins returned to Battle Creek. After his marriage, in 1868, he and his wife went to live with her parents on the old Shepherd farm in LeRoy township. Soon thereafter Mr. Shepherd's health failed and Mr. Hutchins assumed the responsibility of running the estate himself. Subsequent to his wife's death, in 1901, he sold the farm and came to Sonoma to live. He was unusually successful as a farmer and stock-raiser and as such acquired a competency.

Mr. Hutchins has been twice married. March 7, 1866, he wed Phoebe A. Shepherd, a daughter of M. E. and Margaret (Spencer) Shepherd, both of whom are now deceased. The old Shepherd farm included the plot of ground on which the Methodist Episcopal church now stands and that land was donated to the church by Mr. Shepherd. Mrs. Delos Hutchins died in September, 1901. There were no children born to the union. In 1908 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Hutchins to Mrs. Jennie Mulhallon, of Sonoma. She had two children by her first husband, Maud, wife of Harry Minty of Battle Creek, and Claude E. deceased.

Hosted by Google

In his political convictions Mr. Hutchins is an uncompromising Republican and he has ever been deeply interested in community affairs although he has steadily refused to run for public office of any description. He is a devout Methodist in his religious faith and for many years was a member of the board of stewards and a trustee in the church. Fraternally, he owns to membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. His life history is well worthy of emulation and of commendation for he was strictly honorable and straightforward in his business dealings and his life has ever been exemplary in all respects.

THOMAS W. SPRAGUE. Americans are beginning to realize the moral as well as the historical significance of genealogical foundations. A nation which relies upon the record of its homes for its national character, cannot afford to ignore the value of genealogical investigation as one of the truest sources of patriotism. The love of home inspires the love of country. There is a wholesome influence in genealogical research which cannot be over-estimated. Moreover, there is a deep human interest to it. The Sprague family is one of ancient English lineage, the original progenitor of the name in America having come hither in 1628. His name was William Sprague and his descendants in this country have ever figured prominently as citizens of worth and intrinsic patriotism. The great-grandfather of the subject of this review, gained distinction as a soldier in the war of the Revolution and he received a grant of six hundred acres of land for his services in the Colonial army.

Thomas Wesley Sprague, of this notice, was born on the farm on which he now resides in Section 11, LeRoy township, Calhoun county, Michigan, January 12, 1855, and he is a son of Thomas Sprague, whose birth occurred in the town of Hannibal, Oswego county, New York, March 11, 1812. The father was reared to maturity in New York and there obtained a common school education. He was a son of Jonathan and Margaret (Carr) Sprague, who came to Michigan, with their four sons, about 1835. The sons settled on a government grant, a portion of which is now owned by the subject of this review, and Thomas Sprague immediately set about preparing a home for the reception of his bride, formerly Mary Mills, whom he married at Hannibal, New York, December 27, 1835. The Mills family came to Michigan shortly after the Spragues had settled here and they located on land in the western part of Calhoun county. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sprague became the parents of six children, of whom three are living, in 1912. July 15, 1851, Mrs. Sprague was summoned to the life eternal and subsequently Mr. Sprague married Lucy A. Millen, a native of Wyoming county, New York, where her birth occurred August 24, 1821. Three children were born to this union and of the number Thomas Wesley was the second in order of birth.

Thomas Sprague was early converted to Christianity and at the age of seventeen was accepted as a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. During the early, pioneer days in Michigan, with some of his neighbors, he formed a class and became an earnest exhorter of the Methodist faith. In July, 1864, he was ordained to the ministry and he was pastor of various churches in Michigan until his demise, which occurred at Kendalls, Kalamazoo county, October 26, 1880. In addition to his church work he was a man of prominence and influence in public affairs, having held different township offices. For twelve years he was justice of the peace and he was likewise incumbent of the offices of highway commissioner and town constable of LeRoy township for many years. It was largely through his efforts that the Methodist

Hosted by Google

Episcopal church at East LeRoy was built and he was one of the most liberal contributors to the fund collected for that purpose, having made a donation of six hundred dollars. His wife gave a sum of fifty dollars and she was an earnest and zealous church worker. After her husband's death the second Mrs. Sprague married William B. Gleason, of Newton township, Calhoun county. She was called to eternal rest February 11, 1905.

To the district schools of LeRoy township Thomas Wesley Sprague is indebted for his early educational training and that discipline was supplemented with a course of study in the Battle Creek Business College. After reaching years of maturity he turned his attention to farming and he is now the owner of the old homestead, the same comprising 194 acres of most arable land and representing one of the finest estates in the entire county. Mr. Sprague is a scientific farmer in the most significant sense of the word and he has gained distinctive prestige in this section of the state as a breeder of thoroughbred Holstein cattle. The head of his herd is Sir Prilly Hengerveld, concerning whom the following information is here inserted, the same being a statement gotten out by Mr. Sprague.

This fine young bull's dam is Prilly Princess, whose record is 25.13 lbs. butter in 7 days, with milk averaging 5.45 per cent butter fat. His granddam is the famous Old Prilly, record 25.20 lbs. butter, milk averaging 4.40 per cent butter fat. Old Prilly's five daughters have records of over twenty-six pounds each. The butter records of Old Prilly, her daughters and granddaughters have never been equalled by the Holstein or any other breed.

Sir Prilly Hengerveld's sister has a world record of 28.25 lbs. butter at three years of age. His sire is Judge Hengerveld De Kol, whose dam has a record of 28.59 lbs. butter, and whose sire is the noted Hengerveld De Kol who has to his credit one hundred and two tested daughters, of which two have a record above 30 lbs. In view of these facts it is to be said that no more desirable sire than young Sir Prilly Hengerveld is to be found anywhere.

January 21, 1874, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Sprague to Miss Libbie Jane Swart, a daughter of Walter J. and Mary (Pennypacker) Swart, both natives of New York, the former having been born at Amsterdam, that state, January 7, 1820, and the latter at Gorham, Ontario county, June 18, 1823. Mr. and Mrs. Swart were married in 1843 and they came to Michigan in 1865. Mr. Swart died in LeRoy township August 7, 1890, and his wife passed away in May, 1893. They were the parents of three children, of whom Mrs. Sprague was the youngest in order of birth. Mrs. Sprague was born in Gorham, New York the 22d of August, 1854. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Sprague, as follows,—Wilbur W. is engaged in the creamery business at Battle Creek; Lottie is the wife of John Rolfe, of Battle Creek township; and Eda Marie is the wife of Amos Morgan Johnson. Mr. and Mrs. Sprague have spent most of their lives thus far on the home farm, with the exception of a few years spent in Battle Creek, where the children completed their educational training.

Mr. Sprague is a Republican in his political allegiance and he has held a number of township offices, including that of supervisor. He is a Mason, a member of the Gleaners and with his wife is affiliated with the Knights & Ladies of Security. Their religious faith is in harmony with the tenets of the Methodist Episcopal church. The Sprague home is one of generous hospitality and is the scene of many social gatherings.

Hosted by Google

ELMER BLOSSER, is most successfully engaged in the farming and stock-raising business on his fine estate of eighty acres in Section 23, LeRoy township, Calhoun county, Michigan. Mr. Blosser was born at Logan, Hawkins county, Ohio, June 9, 1864, and he is a son of Nicholas Blosser, who was born in the Buckeye state April 1, 1840. The father was reared and educated in Ohio and in that state was solemnized his marriage, in 1863, to Miss Mary Downer, who bore him three children, as follows,—Elmer, the immediate subject of this review; Libby, who is the wife of John Gallagher, of Traverse City, Michigan; and Nora, widow of the late H. Miller: she resides in Traverse City. In 1868 the Blosser family left Ohio and came to Michigan, locating in Branch county, where Mrs. Blosser died in 1875. Subsequently Mr. Blosser married Etta Garber. In 1878 the family removed from Branch county to Antrim county and thence to Indiana, some years later, the home was established in Minnesota but later Mr. Blosser returned to Antrim county, Michigan, where he and his wife are now living. He is a stalwart Republican in his political allegiance and in religious matters he and his wife are members of the Menonite church, in which faith they reared their children.

A child of five years of age at the time of his parents' removal to Branch county, Michigan, Elmer Blosser was there reared to the age of fourteen years, when the family settled in Antrim county. In the latter place he completed his educational training and at the age of fifteen years entered the Railroad Telegraph office at Mancelona. After thoroughly familiarizing himself with the art of telegraphy he followed that line of enterprise for the ensuing seven years, at the expiration of which he accepted a position as brakeman on the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway three years. After his marriage, in 1890, he was variously engaged until 1896, when he came to Calhoun county and purchased a farm of eighty acres in LeRoy township. For the next ten years he devoted his attention to diversified agriculture and the raising of high-grade stock but in 1906 railroading again called him and from that time until 1911 he was in the employ of the Grand Trunk Railroad, his headquarters being at Toronto. Since 1911, however, he has resided on his farm, which is in a high state of improvement and which ranks as one of the most productive estates in LeRoy township. In the midst of well cultivated fields are substantial farm buildings, thoroughly equipped with modern conveniences, the same being ample proof of the excellent ability and management of their owner.

In his political affiliations Mr. Blosser accords an uncomprising allegiance to the principles and policies for which the Democratic party stands sponsor. He has never participated actively in local politics but is deeply interested in community affairs and is ever on the alert to do all in his power to advance the general welfare. He is a self-made man in the most significant sense of the word and is well deserving of the unqualified confidence and esteem accorded him by his fellow citizens.

In 1886, at Mancelona, Michigan, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Blosser to Miss Minnie Lybarker, a daughter of Asbury and Julia Lybarker. The former was engaged in farming enterprises during his active career, he is now deceased.

RAYMOND SPRAGUE. In Section 26, LeRoy township, Calhoun county, Michigan, is located the finely improved farm of Raymond Sprague, the same comprising some 275 acres. Mr. Sprague is a prominent and influential citizen of the younger generation in this section of the county and while he devotes most of his attention to the management of his

Hosted by Google

farm he is deeply and sincerely interested in community affairs and gives freely of his aid and influence in support of all measures forward for progress and improvement.

A native of Calhoun county, Michigan, Raymond Sprague was born on the farm on which he now resides, the date of his birth being October 20, 1880. He is a son of Elliot Sprague, who was likewise born in this county, his nativity having occurred July 25, 1843. Thomas Sprague, grandfather of him whose name forms the caption for this review, was born and reared in New York, whence he came to Michigan in the year 1832. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Mills. Elliott Sprague passed his boyhood and youth in LeRoy township and received his early educational training in the public schools, this discipline having later been supplemented with a course in Olivet College. His father was a Methodist Episcopal minister. December 25, 1869, Elliot Sprague married Miss Maria Baker, daughter of Bayze W. and Eunice (Northrope) Baker, who came to Calhoun county from Elmira, New York, in 1867. The Baker family located on the farm on which Raymond Sprague now lives and Mr. and Mrs. Baker were the parents of six sons and three daughters, of whom Maria was the youngest in order of birth. At the time of his marriage Mr. Sprague purchased two hundred and seventy-five acres of the old Baker estate, which originally comprised four hundred and forty acres. Mr. and Mrs. Sprague had four children, as follows,—Belle died at the age of three years; Fannie is the wife of Robert C. Talbot, of Battle Creek; Raymond is the immediate subject of this review; and Evis resides in Battle Creek. Elliot Sprague passed to the life eternal June 27, 1908, and his cherished and devoted wife died March 15, 1912. He was a great believer in scientific farming and was a breeder of registered stock, making a specialty of trotting horses, French merino sheep and Hereford cattle. In politics he was a stalwart in the ranks of the Republican party, in religious matters, was a devout Methodist and in a fraternal way was a member of the Knights of the Maccabees. He was a citizen of prominence in his home community and commanded the unalloyed confidence and esteem of all with whom he came in contact. Mrs. Sprague was gifted in a literary way and wrote a number of stories for the Boys' and Girls' section of the Detroit Free Press. Of her published books "Janice and Other Stories" is best known.

Raymond Sprague was reared to maturity on the home farm and after completing the curriculum of the district schools he attended the Battle Creek high school, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1902. He also pursued a commercial course in the Business and Normal College at Battle Creek. In 1903 he returned to the old homestead farm, which he has since conducted. He devotes his attention to diversified agriculture and the raising of high-grade stock and Meadowbrook Farm is one of the most attractive rural estates in the entire county. In his political convictions he supports Republican principles and he attends the Congregational church. He is unmarried.

JOHN A. AND EDWARD F. GLAU. Among the list of enterprising and progressive young men in East LeRoy, Michigan, John A. and Edward F. Glau stand out prominently. Both of them ambitious and hard-working they give promise of being numbered among East LeRoy's most substantial citizens.

The father of these two young men is William Glau, a successful farmer of Newton township. Mr. Glau, Sr., was born in Holstein, Germany, but two years after attaining his majority came to America, not to avoid serving in the German army, the motive that impels a large num-

Hosted by Google

ber of Europeans to seek another home, because he had already fulfilled his obligations in that regard, but to see for himself the big opportunities reputed to be open in the new land. He first located in Toledo, Ohio, where he was employed by a railroad, until 1882 when he moved to Calhoun county, Michigan. After working here for about seven years at various different occupations he bought a farm of eighty acres in Newton township. A little later, however, he sold this and has since owned several farms, among them the one of fifty acres in Newton township on which he is now living. Mr. Glau is a Democrat and a member of the Grange. He attends the German Lutheran church of Fredonia. He married Elizabeth Damon of Toledo, the daughter of Nicholas Damon, an American of French and German descent, and from their union four children are still living, Frances, now the wife of William Laupp, a farmer in Newton township, William, who is farming in Iowa, and John and Edward, the subjects of this sketch. Mrs. Glau died July 24, 1890, and later Mr. Glau was married to Mary Mite of Toledo, whose death occurred December 27, 1909. There were no children by the second marriage.

John A. Glau was born September 29, 1882, in Toledo, Ohio, but as his parents moved to Michigan soon after his birth he spent his childhood in Calhoun county. He attended the district schools there, and worked on the home farm until 1902 when he left to learn the hardware and tinner business with W. J. Hagelsham of East LeRoy. He remained with him for two and a half years, and then entered the employ of Hall & Co., as a clerk and assistant repair man, staying with them for two and a half years. His next position was with Wattles & Son of Battle Creek where he remained for one and a half years. The next two years he worked for Bock, Walker Company, hardware merchants of Battle Creek, and immediately after that, on February 6, 1911 to be exact, started in business for himself, purchasing in partnership with his brother Edward, the stock of W. J. Hagelsham at East LeRoy. Since then the two brothers have worked up an excellent business and their handsomely fitted, well stocked store is one of the show places of East LeRoy. In 1901 Mr. John Glau was married to Edith O'Herin, the daughter of T. W. O'Herin of East LeRoy, who has been a section foreman on the Michigan Central railroad for twenty-two years. Mrs. Glau is the youngest in a family of four children. She and Mr. Glau are the parents of three children, Genevieve, Francis, and Edson.

Edward F. Glau, the youngest son of William Glau was born August 5, 1885, on the farm in Newton township, Calhoun county. He spent his early life on the farm, receiving his education at the district schools of Newton township. At the age of twenty he left the farm to go into the company of V. C. Wattles & Son of Battle Creek, where he stayed for five years, or until he and his brother, John, bought out the hardware store in East LeRoy. On March 5, 1907 he was married to Jessie Mae Manzer, the daughter of James and Dora Hartford Manzer. Mr. Manzer, who was born in Michigan, is a prominent farmer of Newton township. They had three children of whom Mrs. Glau is the eldest. Mr. and Mrs. Glau have also had three children, Marjorie and Helen, who are twins, and Dorothy. Mr. Glau belongs to the I. O. O. F., and like his brother John is a Republican.

David L. Swain of East LeRoy is well known as a prosperous farmer and mill owner. He is well liked both in social and business circles, and has always held an active interest in the several lodges, Masonic, Maccabees, and Gleaners, in which he holds membership.

Hosted by Google

Mr. Swain's father, John Swain was a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in Reading in August, 1834. He attended the public schools of Pennsylvania, but soon after leaving them went to Ohio. He was married there to Rozana C. Apolis, who was born in Germany. They became the parents of eight children, Elizabeth, now the wife of Mr. John Dunn of Gilead township, Branch county, Elias of Coldwater, Michigan, Thomas, of Sherwood, David of Athens township, James, of Coldwater, Sterling of Noble, and John, of Coldwater. One son is dead. In 1858 Mr. Swain moved with his family to Michigan, and dropping his former occupation of carriage maker, took up farming. Mrs. Swain died at Noble, Branch county, Michigan, in 1899, and Mr. Swain, who is now living at Coldwater, Michigan, has since retired from active work. He has been much interested in political affairs and has held several township offices. He is in sympathy with the Democratic party. The Lutheran church claims him as a member.

David Swain, the subject of this sketch, was born in Bethel township, Branch county, November 30, 1864, and spent his childhood in Noble, attending the district schools there. He first took up his present business in 1890 when he moved to Calhoun county and entered a grist mill, elevator, and implement business in East LeRoy. At the present time his mill, which saws all kinds of hardwood, furnishing lumber for the furniture trade, has a capacity of eight to twelve thousand feet of lumber per day. For sixteen years he operated nothing but the saw mill, but in 1896 he purchased a farm of 181 acres in Athens township, and has conducted both ever since. He and Edith G. Latta, of East LeRoy township, daughter of Charles H. and Esther (Mott) Latta, owners of a large farm in East LeRoy township, were married in 1900, and have had five children, Marian, Vivian, Lyle, Leona, and Walter. All five are at home. Mr. Swain is a Republican and attends the Methodist Episcopal church.

Euler Grant Houghton. There is perhaps no class of business men who show the varying degrees of intelligence in the conduct of their business that may be observed in the conduct of general stores in towns and smaller cities. To provide for a community's needs of this sort in an indifferent fashion often suffices a merchant's ambition; to supply them in the best possible quality and to make his place of business attractive to his patrons is the purpose of such men as Euler Grant Houghton of East LeRoy.

Mr. Houghton's family was originally Pennsylvanian. His grandfather, Ezra Houghton, whose wife before her marriage was a Miss Quail, came to Michigan when their son, Albert (later the father of E. G. Houghton) was a boy of twelve. The latter, Albert Houghton, was born in Pennsylvania on the 29th of August, 1829. The first Michigan home of this family was in Lenawee county, which location they exchanged for that of Washtenaw county, where Ezra Houghton spent the rest of his life and where he died in 1870. Albert Houghton became a farmer, like his father, and lived the greater part of his life in Washtenaw county, although his agricultural existence was interrupted for a year by his joining in the general quest for gold in California in 1849. He went to the same state a second time for farming purposes, but conducted farming operations there for only a comparatively short time, ultimately returning to Michigan, which was his home the rest of his life. While in the west, however, he had been united in marriage to Mrs. Mary (Wells) Bain, a widow and a native of New York state. The only child born to them was Euler Grant Houghton, to whom this sketch is dedicated. Mrs. Wells' daughter by her former marriage, Ida Bain

Hosted by Google

is now deceased. After his marriage, Albert Houghton settled in Webster, Michigan, where he purchased a farm on which he lived until 1872. This farm was, on March 13, 1872, the birthplace of our subject. The second home of his boyhood was another farm which Albert Houghton later bought in Newton township, when the former was five years of age. E. G. grew up here and here received his early education. In his more mature boyhood he followed the vocation of farming with his father, until in 1892, after the mother's death, he spent a year or two of experimental employment in Battle Creek and Galesburg. In 1894 he came to East LeRoy, which has since been his home. In 1906 he was joined by his father, who lived in the son's home until his death in the same year.

Ever since his coming to East LeRoy in 1894, Euler Grant Houghton has been successful in all that he has undertaken. His merchandise business which had its inception at that time has ever since gradually developed and its various phases have been steadily improved. In 1902 he rebuilt his store, adding new and convenient features and in every possible way facilitating business both from his own and his customers' points of view. He now conducts a general merchandise business on a large scale.

Shortly before coming to East LeRoy—on October 15, 1891, Mr. Houghton was married to Miss Mary Clark, a daughter of Richard E. and Ann (Polhemus) Clark. Mr. Clark was a native of Ulster county, New York, where he was born on June 18, 1840. His father, Alfred Clark, had been born in the same locality. The latter was a contractor and builder from early life until 1854, when he located on a farm of 160 acres of Emmett township, Michigan; his wife was Ann Clearwater, a daughter of Edward Clearwater, of New York; of their children and indeed of the original stock, Richard Clark is the only one now living. His farming interests were at first identified with his father's, but in 1872 he purchased the farm of 162 acres on which he now lives. He had won as his life's companion, on October 9th, 1862, Ann Polhemus, a daughter of John and Ann Maria (Voorhees) Polhemus, who were natives of Holland, New Jersey; who had come to Michigan during the 'fifties and who had made their home in Battle Creek. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Clark were Alfred N. Clark, who is now extensively engaged in the beet sugar business in Lansing; Mrs. Houghton, the wife of the subject of this article; and Lloyd M. Clark, who is a furniture dealer in Utica, New York. Their mother, Mrs. Richard Clark, died in 1880, since when Mr. Clark has traveled during a large part of the time, spending much of it in New York. He leads a retired life, occasionally living on his farm for periods of varying length. In politics he is a Republican as was the father of Mrs. Houghton.

Euler Grant Houghton and Mrs. Houghton are the parents of three children, Howard L., R. Donald, and Clark W., all of whom are still at home. The family is connected with the Methodist church, and Mr. Houghton is a valued supporter of the church, both spiritually and financially, and the members of his family among its regular attendants. Politically he is a Republican, with a keen sense of public duty. He has served efficiently as a Justice of the Peace. He is further useful to his community as a notary public and is in many ways an important citizen.

HOMER HALL. A well-to-do agriculturalist and worthy churchman of LeRoy township, who may also view with satisfaction a successfully reared family creditably placed in the world, is Mr. Homer Hall, whose

Hosted by Google

beautifully kept farm of 224 acres attracts the attention of all who visit this region.

Truly enviable is the man of mature years, who can view with modest satisfaction his own well spent years and regard with complacency both his ancestors and his descendants, in their remembered or anticipated lives. Homer Hall's paternal grandparents were worthy farmers of New England stock, named Thomas and Rosanna Hall. This pair were the parents of a son whose name was Lyman Hall. He was born in Rutland county, Vermont, on the twenty-eighth of December in 1813, and when he was but eight years of age death took his father from the home. Lyman Hall grew up into energetic habits and ambitious ideas, which took form both in his vigorous occupation of blacksmith and in his enterprising claim-staking in Michigan in 1836. He thus became the owner of 240 acres, which, however, was never his home, as he exchanged it for another farm on which his son now lives. He lived for some time in Battle Creek before occupying his farm and his son remembers hearing him tell of cultivating corn on the spot where the Battle Creek high school building now stands. He married on January twentieth, 1841, Miss Lucy Champion, the daughter of John and Rebecca (Hubbard) Champion, (Champion street in Battle Creek was named after him), an English family who had lived in Pennsylvania before coming to Michigan in 1834. The children of Lyman and Lucy Hall were four sons, of whom two died in childhood. Homer Hall's brother, Lyman C. was the only one beside himself who grew to manhood. He was well educated and entered the commission business in New York city. His health failed gradually, and in spite of some time spent in California in the hope of regaining it, he at last retired to his home in LeRoy, where at the age of thirty-three years, he died. The Lyman Hall home was a fine residence built in 1861, but now occupied by Mr. Graves, standing opposite the site on which Mr. Hall has erected his fine residence of concrete. Lyman Hall was very prominent in the township, holding several offices and serving as a trustee of the Methodist church until increasing frailty made it necessary for him to give the office into other hands. He died on April 18, 1886.

The nativity of Homer Hall was in LeRoy township, on the farm where he now resides, the date of his birth being June 13, 1853. After the completion of his district school education, he pursued studies at Union Business College in Battle Creek, and on the conclusion of this course spent two years in the office of the American Express Company in this same city.

He presently determined on the agricultural career as his life's work and won as his life's comrade Miss Ella M. Stanton, a daughter of A. C. and Jane E. (Ashley) Stanton. From their marriage on February 7th, 1877, their lives was a prosperous one. They have been the parents of four children, all of whom are worthily settled in life. The life of Fred S. Hall, the eldest, is the subject of an appended article; Lewis R., who was born in 1885, lives in Athens, Michigan, and he and his wife, nee Mearle Owen, are the parents of one child, Lyman Hall. Eva M., who was born July 11, 1887, is now Mrs. Fred Gale and is the mother of one child, Dorothy; Clara J., who was born June 28, 1891, is now Mrs. Clarence Foss. The two grandchildren of Mr. Hall were born, respectively, on November 18, 1908, and on July 7, 1910. Mrs. Hall died May 11, 1912.

Homer Hall is true to his family reputation in being an active member and officer in the Methodist Episcopal church at Sonoma. He has for several years been a member of the Board of Stewards.

His farming is of a general nature and is quite extensive. His dairy

Hosted by Google

is the most notable feature of the group of productive industries carried on in the different departments of his farm. To the 124 acres with which he began farming, he has added one hundred acres. He is, furthermore, a member of the firm of Hall and Company, of East LeRoy.

FRED S. HALL. Of an eastern family later locating in Calhoun county, Michigan, his immediate progenitor being Homer Hall, a prominent and successful farmer whose life is elsewhere reviewed in these pages, Fred S. Hall was born on his father's farm in LeRoy township of Calhoun county, October 21st, 1878. At the old home near Barnum Lake, Fred Hall with his brothers and sisters was given his home training. His elementary education was pursued in the public schools of LeRoy and his later specific knowledge was gained from the Battle Creek business college. Mr. Hall, unlike many young men, experienced none of the confusion of purpose such as often delays the inception of a career. While only twenty-one years of age he definitely entered upon his present work of merchandise. The store then belonging to Mr. Henry Knox was purchased and Fred Hall is now its able manager. It is owned jointly by his father and himself, the firm name being Hall and Company. For some time the store has been one comprising general merchandise. Its stock is extensive and up-to-date and it is the largest store in the township.

In 1904 Miss Madge Bushnell became Mrs. Fred Hall. She is the daughter of Harlow and Clara (Wheeler) Bushnell, who are prominent farmers of LeRoy township. She is the elder of the two daughters of Mr. Bushnell and his second wife. In the years succeeding her marriage to Mr. Hall, two children have been born to them, Harlow and Margaret.

Mr. Hall is prominent and popular in both political and socially fraternal circles. He is a Republican of rational views and of firm and loyal principles. In 1900 he was the recipient of the honor of being appointed postmaster of East LeRoy, an office he has filled with efficiency and faithfulness. He is a conspicuous member of the Masonic lodge and that of the Maccabees.

Full data regarding Mr. Hall's father will be found in the article dedicated to him, which also contains material regarding Mr. Hall's brother, Lewis, of Athens, and his two sisters, Mrs. Gale, who with her husband lives at the old Hall homestead, and Mrs. Foss, whose rural residence is near Beadle Lake.

RYAN BARBER COWLES. Standing prominent among the intelligent, capable and progressive agriculturists of Calhoun county is Ryan Barber Cowles, who is carrying on general farming, including dairying and stock-raising, after the most modern scientific methods, his labors being crowned with success. A son of Addison B. Cowles, he was born, August 28, 1846, in Battle Creek township, Michigan, on the parental homestead, which included the farm on which he now resides. He comes from an old and honored New England family, his grandfather, Deacon Heman Cowles, having been a son of Nathaniel Cowles, of Revolutionary fame.

Deacon Heman Cowles was born and bred among the rugged hills of Vermont. Subsequently crossing the line into New York state, he remained there for sometime, being engaged in tilling the soil. In 1836 or 1837, he came with his family to Calhoun county, Michigan, locating first at Battle Creek, but later removing to Milton, where he served as postmaster under President Jackson. He was a farmer of means, and

Hosted by Google

a citizen of influence and prominence. He was a Democrat in politics, and a strong abolitionist. Religiously he was a pillar of the Free Will Baptist church, and until his death, which occurred in 1866, at the advanced age of eighty-three years, contributed liberally towards the support of Hillsdale College. The maiden name of his wife was Amanda Barber.

Born in Ontario county, New York, Addison B. Cowles came to Michigan in early manhood, locating at Battle Creek in 1837, and in Calhoun county spent the remainder of his brief life of thirty-eight years. He was for a time postmaster at Battle Creek, but later engaged in farming, his homestead farm being finely situated in Battle Creek township. He was twice married. His first wife, whose maiden name was Mary Ellis, died in early womanhood, leaving one child, Eri Cowles. He married for his second wife, in 1840, Hannah Sprague, who bore him two children, as follows: Heman L., deceased; and Ryan B., the special subject of this brief sketch.

Brought up on the home farm, Ryan Barber Cowles was given superior educational advantages for a farmer's son. After leaving the public schools, he continued his studies for a time at the Lansing Agricultural College, going from there to Olivet College, which he attended for three years. Entering then the Law Department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, he was there graduated at the end of two years with the degree of LL. B., and in April, 1871, was admitted to the Michigan bar. Locating at Kalamazoo, Michigan, Mr. Cowles was there engaged in the practice of law for awhile, but the close confinement indoors proved detrimental to his physical health, and he abandoned his profession in response to a recall to the soil. Inheriting his share of the parental estate, Mr. Cowles bought out the interests of the remaining heir, and resumed farming, making good use of the instruction which he had received at the agricultural college. In the management of his fine estate he employs the most approved modern methods, and as a general farmer has been very prosperous. Mr. Cowles pays especial attention to stock-raising and dairying, his cattle being now principally Jerseys and Durhams. He also raises Merino sheep and Poland China hogs, and aside from breeding and raising Norman Percheron draft horses, and those of the Pilot stock, continued to raise many Hambletonians, a breed which has been in the Cowles family for upwards of half a century. More recently, however, he has introduced some of the Wilkes strain of horses into his stable, which contains many fine and valuable animals.

For five years Mr. Cowles served as township supervisor, and has ever maintained a lively interest in local affairs. He taught school as a young man, and for many years was superintendent of the Union Sunday school. He is a member of the Olivet College fraternity, Pi Alpha Pi, which he joined many years ago. Mr. Cowles likewise has membership in the Ancient Order of United Workmen; in the Patrons of Industry; and is a member, and past master, of the local grange, Patrons of Husbandry.

Mr. Cowles married, November 30, 1871, Nettie M. Steward, a daughter of George W. and Lydia (Gray) Steward, early settlers of Kalamazoo county, Michigan. Three children have been born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Cowles, namely: May Belle, deceased; Floyd, who lives on the home farm, married Luella Goodrich, and they have two children, June J. and George O. and Ernest A., who passed to the higher life in 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Cowles are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Hosted by Google

FRANK HOYT. Among the native-born citizens of Calhoun county who have spent their lives within its precincts, aiding as far as lay in their power its growth and development, is Frank Hoyt, who was born in Emmett township, on the farm where he now resides, September 1, 1861.

His father, George Hoyt, was born, November 1, 1826, in Connecticut, where he was bred and educated, as a young man learning the carpenter's trade. Coming west in 1853, he located in Calhoun county, Michigan, when this part of the state was but sparsely populated. He purchased forty acres of timbered land in Emmett township, and on the farm which he redeemed from its primitive wildness spent his remaining days, passing away in 1892. He married, in 1853, Eliza Hungerford, who survived him many years, her death occurring November 16, 1911, aged eighty years. Six children blessed their union, namely: Arthur, a machinist at Battle Creek; Fred died in infancy; Frank, the special subject of this brief biographical sketch; Emma, who married Bert Hokum; Nellie, wife of H. W. Cronkhite; and Edward, of Battle Creek, a civil engineer.

Brought up beneath the parental roof-tree, Frank Hoyt gleaned his early knowledge of books in the district schools, and while assisting his father became familiar with the general branches of agriculture. Since assuming the management of the old home farm Mr. Hoyt has been successful in his operations, his farm being under an excellent state of cultivation, and yielding good crops each year. Mr. Hoyt is an earnest supporter of the principles of the Republican party, and has served as a member of the local school board, and as highway commissioner. He attends the Methodist Episcopal Church, while Mrs. Hoyt is a Presbyterian in faith.

Mr. Hoyt married, in 1899, Miss Lottie Van Voorhees, who was born in Fredonia township, Calhoun county, Michigan, April 28, 1868, being descended from an old and honored family which traces its lineage back to the sixteenth century. Her father, Isaac Van Voorhees, was born in New York city January 28, 1833, and subsequently removed to Michigan, settling in Fredonia township, where he bought land, and was engaged in tilling the soil until his death, February 1, 1870. His wife, whose maiden name was Emily Hungerford, was born, July 16, 1838, in Connecticut, and died, May 27, 1908, in Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Van Voorhees were the parents of three children as follows: Lissie, born February 24, 1861, died March 9, 1863; Lewis, born March 2, 1864, died February 19, 1880; and Lottie, now Mrs. Hoyt. Three children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt, namely: Emily L., born May 9, 1901; Robert Boughton, born March 22, 1906; and Wesley George, born November 1, 1910.

CHARLES E. KISTLER. Far-sighted and progressive, and endowed with excellent executive and business ability, Charles E. Kistler is actively identified with the development and advancement of the mercantile and manufacturing interests of Emmett township, Calhoun county, and as proprietor of Beadle Lake resort furnishes the people roundabout with one of the most delightful and attractive places for rest and recreation imaginable. Located but three miles from Battle Creek, on the Allegan division of the Michigan Central Railroad, this resort is easy of access, and with its facilities for fishing, bathing, driving, boating, dancing and joining in other forms of amusement, is exceedingly popular with all classes of people, either for a day's outing, or for a long summer stay.

A native of Calhoun county, Charles E. Kistler was born on a farm

Hosted by Google

in Emmett township, August 28, 1863, on the paternal side coming of thrifty Swiss ancestry.

His father, Jacob Kistler was born, in September, 1827, in Switzerland, where he was reared and educated. In 1847, desirous of enlarging his field of opportunities, he immigrated to the United States, a land of hope and promise to the ambitious youth. Locating in Sandusky county, Ohio, he worked hard and in a few years had saved enough money to buy a tract of land and embark in farming on his own account. Disposing of his Ohio interests in 1862, he came to Calhoun county, Michigan, settling in Emmett township. Purchasing one hundred and fourteen acres of timbered land, he began the pioneer task of hewing a farm from the wilderness, and has since been a resident of this township, being now one of its most venerable and highly respected citizens, his home being not far from Beadle lake. He married, in Sandusky county, Ohio, in 1851, Polly Beck, who was born in Ohio, and into their pleasant household seven children have been born, as follows: Benjamin, deceased; Rena, deceased; Henry J., a blacksmith, lives in Lansing, Michigan; Charles E., the special subject of this brief biographical review; Mrs. Etta Beeson, of Battle Creek; Edward J., a machinist, is connected with the American Steam Pump Works, at Battle Creek; and David, deceased.

Spending his early life on the home farm, Charles E. Kistler was trained to agricultural pursuits, his early education being gleaned in the public school of District Number eight. On reaching man's estate, he embarked in mercantile pursuits, beginning on a modest scale by opening a small store on the banks of Beadle lake. Being fair and square in his dealings with all, Mr. Kistler was well patronized from the first, and in responding to the demands of his trade he gradually enlarged his operations, his business as a merchant being now extensive and remunerative.

Succeeding to the ownership of thirty-five acres of his father's original farm, Mr. Kistler, who long ago perceived the value of its many natural attractions and possibilities, has spared neither time nor expense in developing its resources, and it is fast becoming one of the most popular summer resorts of Southern Michigan. Mr. Kistler was instrumental in having all trains stop at Kistler's Crossing, which is near his resort, making travel by railway to and from the city easy and convenient. He was the first man to keep boats for rent on the lake, and to his equipments he has added a boat building shop. He has stocked the lake with various kinds of fish, securing for his first shipment one hundred thousand wall-eyed pike and five thousand large-mouthed bass, while the following year he put in fifty thousand perch and five thousand small-mouthed bass. These, with pickerel, calico bass and blue gills furnish ample sport for the anglers, who are almost always sure of a good catch, and at the close of a day's sport can regale their hearers with a story well worthy of credence. For the benefit of the near-by farmers, Mr. Kistler has installed a grist mill, which has a capacity of eight tons every day of ten hours, it being operated by gasoline power.

Mr. Kistler married, October 29, 1903, Miss Amanda Lapham, a daughter of Ethan and Mary (Hoag) Lapham, who settled on a farm in Emmett township in pioneer days. Politically Mr. Kistler is an ardent supporter of the principles of the Republican party, invariably doing duty at the polls. He was township clerk for seven successive years, from 1903 until 1910, and for six years was postmaster at Beadle.

Hosted by Google

JAMES M. JENNINGS is one of the prosperous farmers of Emmett township whose residence in Calhoun county, Michigan is nearing the half-century mark and whose citizenship has been of such a character as to make him one of the representative men of his community, both for his business ability and for his personal worth and integrity.

His nativity occurred on a farm in Clarion county, Pennsylvania on April 1, 1851, he being the fourth of eight children born to Gilbert and Mary Jennings. Both parents were natives of Ireland and were married there in 1844, two of their children having been born before they came to the United States in 1849. Gilbert Jennings was born in County Mayo, Ireland, February 14, 1806. When he came to this country he landed at New Orleans and resided there for a time but shortly afterward went to Pennsylvania and was a resident of that state three years. In 1849 he came to Michigan and located on a farm in Fredonia township, Calhoun county, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death having occurred May 3, 1879. He was a devout communicant of the Catholic church, and in politics was a Democrat. Mrs. Jennings survived him until January 4, 1895, when she too passed away. The eight children of these parents are as follows: Margaret, now Mrs. Charles Mills, of Rockford, Illinois; Ann, who resides in Battle Creek, Michigan; James, deceased in infancy; James M., the subject of this review; Gilbert, who died in infancy; Martin E., whose death occurred at Eckford, Calhoun county, Michigan; Mary, now a teacher in the Marshall public schools; and Mrs. Elizabeth Hess, now deceased. The farm of the father remains in estate, never having been probated.

James M. Jennings spent his early life in New York State and first came to Calhoun county, Michigan in 1867, residing in the city of Battle Creek for some time thereafter. He then removed to a farm on section four, Clarendon township, where he remained many years, or until he came to his present place in Emmett township in 1908. Mr. Jennings owns 208 acres of good land in Clarendon township and this farm is now in charge of his son Edward R. Jennings.

On September 26, 1877, was solemnized his marriage to Elizabeth M. Adams, whose parents Alexander and Margaret D. Adams were formerly residents of Rochester, New York, but later came to Calhoun county, Michigan. Mr. Adams was born in Ireland on April 9, 1813, and came to America in 1837, serving as a soldier during the rebellion in Canada in 1838. In Rochester, New York, in 1842 he wedded Margaret D. Murry, who was born in that state on March 17, 1822. For many years he was a contractor in Rochester. They came to Calhoun county in 1866 and resided here until their respective deaths, Mrs. Adams having passed away in 1879 and Mr. Adams in 1894. Mrs. Jennings is the eighth of their nine children, six sons and three daughters, five of whom are living. To Mr. and Mrs. Jennings have been born seven children, namely: James F., now a resident of Othello, Washington; Edward R., who is in charge of his father's farm in Clarendon township; John A., located on a farm adjoining that of his father; and Frank, George, Gilbert and William, all at the parental home.

Politically Mr. Jennings is a Democrat, and his religious faith is expressed as a communicant of the Catholic church. In line with his interests as a successful farmer he sustains membership in the Grange and in the Farmers' Club.

Edward T. Adams was killed in the Civil war, battle of Petersburg, Virginia. Samuel A. Adams resides at Homer, Michigan, and William H. Adams resides at Eckford.

Hosted by Google

PHILANDER M. KING. One of the well known agriculturists of Emmett township, Calhoun county, Michigan is Philander M. King, the son of an early settler in Michigan and himself a resident of Calhoun county for more than half a century.

Mr. King is a native of Michigan, born in Augusta, Kalamazoo county on the 7th of June, 1841, to Philander S. and Sophia Mabie King. The father's nativity occurred in Seneca county, New York on May 26, 1807 and in 1829 he was married to Sophia Mabie, who was born in Canada. They came to Michigan in 1837 and located in Augusta, Kalamazoo county, where Philander S. King followed his trade of carpenter and joiner three years. Removing to Canada in 1844, he there took up farming, but in the fall of 1855 he returned to Michigan and located in Marshall, Calhoun county, where he followed painting and carpentering until 1870. In that year he took up his residence in Jackson, Michigan, remaining there until 1893, when he came to the home of his son in Marshall, Michigan, where he passed away in 1896. His wife survived him until the following year of 1897. Philander M., our subject, was the fifth of eight children, four sons and four daughters, born to these parents. The father was a Democrat in politics, a Mason in fraternal membership, and in religious faith was a Baptist.

Philander M. King was three years old when his parents removed to Canada and he remained there until the spring of 1856 when he joined his father in Marshall, Michigan. His education, which was begun in Canada, was concluded with two years' attendance of the Marshall public schools. Following that, he went to New York City where he became apprenticed to a watch maker, but after three years he gave up the work on account of ill health. Returning to Marshall, Michigan, he took up decorating and followed it until 1896 when he turned his attention to agriculture, the vocation in which he has since been engaged. He located on a farm four miles west of Marshall and remained there until 1911, when he sold that farm and in May of that year bought another of 84 acres, known as the Berry farm, on which he now resides.

Mr. King has been twice married. His first wife was Miss Ella Thornton, of Canada, whom he wedded in 1861 and who bore him two children: Clara, who was born in 1863 and died in 1882, and Reuben D., now engaged in the mercantile business at Brainard, Minnesota. The second marriage of Mr. King occurred in 1880 and united him to Mrs. Lottie J. Robbins, a widow and the daughter of Thomas and Caroline (Shaver) Buddington, pioneers of Jackson, Michigan. The residence of Mr. Shaver, grandfather of Mrs. King, was one of the first built in the city of Jackson. Of the four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Buddington, Mrs. King and a sister were all that grew to maturity, the former born in Jackson, Michigan on October 18, 1843. Mrs. King is the mother of three children, all by her first marriage. They are Mrs. Caroline Houston, of Brooklyn, New York; George Robbins, of Hammond, Indiana; and Agnes, who married A. K. Pierce and died in 1909.

A woman of culture and splendid education, Mrs. King is possessed of considerable poetic talent and has written a number of literary gems. Both Mr. and Mrs. King, who are very proficient in vocal music, sang in the Christian church choir at Marshall for many years and are well known throughout Calhoun county for their ability in this art. In political faith Mr. King is a Democrat and once served as alderman at Marshall. He is president of the Ceresco Farmers' Club and his church membership is held in the Christian denomination.

Hosted by Google

Both Mr. and Mrs. King are of social temperament and are people who command the respect and regard of their community.

A. FLOYD KINGSLEY, M. D. Definite success in his exacting profession well attests the ability and personal popularity of this representative physician and surgeon of the metropolis of Calhoun county and he is well entitled to special recognition in this publication. He maintains his office headquarters in rooms over the City Bank, at No. 1 Main street, West Battle Creek, and controls a large and substantial practice, with further objective recognition of his status as a liberal and progressive citizen.

Dr. Kingsley was born in the village of Leonidas, St. Joseph county, Michigan, on the 15th of September, 1876, and is a son of Chandler R. and Lucy D. (Clark) Kingsley. He was the only child of this union and his mother died when he was but fifteen months of age, his father having subsequently married. Chandler R. Kingsley has long been one of the substantial and honored citizens of St. Joseph county and is a representative of one of the sterling pioneer families of that section of the state, where he still maintains his home. Dr. Kingsley completed the curriculum of the public schools of his native county and thereafter taught one year in the school in his home district and subsequently in other schools in St. Joseph county, where he thus set at naught any application of the scriptural statement that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country. He proved a successful exponent of practical pedagogy but his ambition to enter the medical profession was early quickened into decisive action. In 1896 he entered the medical department of the University of Michigan, and in this admirable institution he was graduated in 1900, as next to the youngest member in his class. After receiving his degree of Doctor of Medicine he opened an office at Centerville, the judicial center of his native county, where he served his professional novitiate and where he continued in active general practice until the 22d of November, 1905, when he came to Battle Creek. Here he has found a wider field of professional endeavor, and the support that has been accorded him in the community has amply justified his choice of location. He subordinates all other interests to the demands of his profession and is one of its skilled, successful and popular representatives in Calhoun county. He is a close student of the best standard and periodical literature pertaining to medical and surgical science, and he is actively identified with the American Medical Association, the Michigan State Medical Society and the Calhoun County Medical Society, of which he was elected secretary-treasurer in June, 1912. He was also a member and president for one year of the Battle Creek Medical Club during the comparatively brief period of its existence and he is held in high esteem by his professional confreres in the county.

In politics Dr. Kingsley is aligned as a staunch advocate of the principles and policies of the Republican party, and in his home city he is affiliated with A. T. Metcalf Lodge, No. 419, Free & Accepted Masons; Battle Creek Chapter, No. 19, Royal Arch Masons; Bryant Chapter, No. 153, Order of the Eastern Star, of which Mrs. Kingsley likewise is a popular member; and with the local lodge No. 29, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Maple Street Methodist Episcopal church.

At Mendon, St. Joseph county, on the 15th of May, 1901, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Kingsley to Miss Rozie L. Leland, who was born in Park township, that county, and who is a daughter of William P. Leland, long one of the representative agriculturists of that

Hosted by Google



A. F. Knoepfler, M.D.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

section of the state. Mrs. Kingsley was afforded the advantages of the Mendon high school and also of the Michigan State Normal College at Ypsilanti. She was a successful and popular teacher in the public schools of her native county prior to her marriage and is a woman of culture and gracious personality. Dr. and Mrs. Kingsley have four children, the three eldest of whom were born at Centerville and the youngest in Battle Creek, their names, in order of birth, being as follows: Lucy Œ., Sarah L., Fred L. and Paul C. The attractive family home, at 223 Calhoun street, is pervaded by an atmosphere of cordial hospitality and Dr. and Mrs. Kingsley have a wide circle of friends in the community.

ERASTUS S. MARSH. The Calhoun county citizenship is fortunate in the possession of such estimable members of society as Erastus S. Marsh, one of the most admirable representatives of the county's agricultural industry. Daniel Webster has said: "Let us never forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of man. Man may be civilized in some degree without great progress in manufacture and with little commerce with his distant neighbors. But without the cultivation of the earth, he is, in all countries, a savage. Until he gives up the chase and seeks a living from the earth, he is a roaming barbarian. When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of civilization." There is no gainsaying the truth of this and the farmers constitute as everywhere, one of Calhoun county's most independent and wholesome classes. In addition to other distinctions Mr. Marsh is a veteran of the Civil war and probably one of the youngest of that gallant company, now, alas, growing so rapidly smaller. He was born at Victor, Ontario county, New York, on March 9, 1847, the son of William W. Marsh, whose birth occurred in the year 1811, also in the Empire state. About 1852, in the manner of so many Easterners at about that time, he sought the newly opening northwest and located in Michigan. He taught school at Flint for some time and then returned to the Empire state where he engaged in farming. He married Sylvia C. Sharpe, of Woodstock county, Vermont, and of the seven children born to their union, the subject was the third in order of birth. The father departed this earth in 1862. He was a graduate of Middleton College, New York, and early in his career he engaged in surveying, his later years being divided between farming and school teaching. He was a man of high principles and wide information; Republican in politics and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The scene of the early life of Erastus S. Marsh was his father's farm in New York and in the neighboring district schools he obtained his education. His youth was shadowed by the lowering Civil war cloud and being patriotic and high spirited it was a grievous matter to him that he could not enlist at the beginning of the great conflict on account of his extreme youth. In January, 1864 he donned the Union blue as a member of Company L, of the Twenty-fourth New York Cavalry. He was plunged at once into the thickest of the conflict, being in the campaign of the Wilderness and on June 1, 1864, being wounded at Bethesda Church. He was placed in a hospital at Washington, D. C. and there remained for some time, then returning to the service and being mustered out May 29, 1865, at the termination of the war.

The young man returned to New York and exchanged the musket for the plowshare. He engaged in farming for several years, but in 1869 determined to come west and on March 24 of that year he arrived in South Bend, Indiana, where he secured a position with the Studebaker Manufacturing Company. He remained there, however, but a few months and then went to Iroquois county, Illinois, where he took pos-

Hosted by Google

session of a farm. He went thence to Bureau county, Illinois, where he farmed for two years and he subsequently went overland to Kansas, where he remained for ten years and then came to Battle Creek in 1883. He resided in that city for about two years, engaged in teaming, but he was not content away from the farm and he purchased a property south of the city. This well situated and valuable property consists of seventy-two and one-half acres.

Mr. Marsh has been twice married. In 1874, Lydia Russell, of South Bend, Indiana, became his wife. She passed away in June, 1900 and in 1902, he took as his wife Leila Knapp, of South Bend. There were no children by either marriage.

Mr. Marsh is Republican in politics and has served for several years on the school board, being a stanch champion of good education. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

BENJAMIN F. MORGAN, known throughout Calhoun county as one of its most prosperous and progressive farmers, as well as for his connection with numerous industrial enterprises which have had an important bearing upon the development of this section of the county, is a native born American, though of full English parentage. His British blood, coupled with his American breeding, have united to produce a strong and powerful character, and Benjamin Morgan, like others of the same name and family, has lived a life of fullest activity, productive of much of good to the community in which he has passed so many years.

Mr. Morgan was born in Chautauqua county, New York, on May 5, 1829, and he is the son of William Morgan and Mary (Crook) Morgan, both natives of county Kent, England, their emigration to the United States occurring in 1829. The father was a son of William Morgan and further reference to his life and family will be found in the sketch dealing with the life of William Morgan III, of Battle Creek, a brother of Benjamin F. Morgan of this review, in other pages of this historical work.

The young life of Mr. Morgan was passed on the farm of his father in New York state. As to education, his advantages were of a limited nature, and such success as Mr. Morgan has attained has been the direct result of his own ability, inherent and invincible, and will go far to disprove the assertions frequently made that success is dependent upon the accident of education. When Mr. Morgan was yet a minor he left home and went to Erie, Pennsylvania, where he became occupied in mill industries, at a time when there were but two mills in the city, his being one of them. He was twenty-one years old when he sold out in Erie and went on a trip of inspection or sight seeing. He traveled on foot through Wisconsin and Illinois, and eventually found himself back in New York. In 1870 Mr. Morgan came to Michigan and located in LeRoy township, remaining there forty-two years. He bought eight farms in LeRoy and joined the entire properties, making an acreage in this one farm of seven hundred and seventy acres. In Emmett township he controls an additional tract of four hundred and sixty-seven acres, all of which he farms extensively and with most excellent results. He is a farmer of acknowledged ability, and his operations are always on a generous scale, and altogether consistent with his usual methods of doing business. Mr. Morgan has been identified with numerous industrial enterprises of a worthy nature in the years that he has been a resident of this section of the state, all of which, with a single exception, have resulted favorably from a financial and industrial standpoint, the case in point being a company organized for the manu-

Hosted by Google

facture of a breakfast food in Battle Creek, and which proved a failure after a few years of consistent efforts to place it upon a paying basis. He is connected with a buggy factory in a financial way. He is now engaged in promoting the Michigan & Indiana Railroad Company, and he with others interested in the project, are at present buying up the right-of-way for the proposed road, which will extend from Coldwater to Battle Creek. Mr. Morgan is a citizen of the most admirable type, and is never too busy to serve his township in any capacity his fellow voters choose to place him in. He has been township commissioner for several years, and has in various other ways given of his time and ability in the cause of good citizenship. He is a Republican, stanch and true, but is without political ambition. Mr. Morgan is well known as a man with detective ability, particularly so in tracing horse thieves.

When Mr. Morgan was twenty-three years old he married Harriet Tracy in Pennsylvania. She was a daughter of John Tracy. Mr. and Mrs. Morgan became the parents of five children, named as follows: Lucy, the wife of Gilbert Johnson; John, a resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; William, engaged on his father's farm in LeRoy, as is also Frank B.; Edwin, the youngest son, is his father's assistant. Mr. Morgan has brought his children up to know the value of money, to know hard work from actual acquaintance with it, and to be honest and honorable in all the relations of life. He has given them but common school educations, believing that with a fair stock of book knowledge and a reasonable quantity of energy and persistence, they will be sufficiently equipped for the battles of life, and it would seem, from observation of his own case, that his reasoning is good. Certain it is that all are doing well in the various lines of enterprise with which they are connected.

VICTOR H. JOSLYN. An essentially representative farmer of Battle Creek township, Calhoun county, Michigan, is Victor H. Joslyn, who resides on his well cultivated estate of one hundred and sixty acres, located just eight miles distant from the city of Battle Creek. He is engaged in general farming and the raising of high-grade stock and he takes an active interest in all matters affecting the general welfare of his home community.

Victor H. Joslyn was born at Charleston, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, the date of his nativity being the 9th of January, 1869. He is a son of James L. and Samantha M. (Gould) Joslyn. James L. Joslyn was the fourth in order of birth in a family of nine children born to James and Lavina (Andrews) Joslyn and he was born at Darien, Genesee county, New York, February 12, 1843. He received a good educational training in his home state and came to Michigan in 1864, at the age of twenty-one years, to visit his brother Joel. Being favorably impressed with the opportunities of the west he decided to stay in Michigan and for a number of winters after his advent in this state was engaged in teaching school. Eventually he entered the employ of Fayette Gould and worked on the latter's farm for a number of years. February 12, 1867, he married Samantha Maria Gould, daughter of his employer, whose wife's maiden name was Betsy Olmsted. Mrs. Joslyn was born in New York December 12, 1843. Mr. and Mrs. Joslyn became the parents of three children, of whom Victor H. is the immediate subject of this review; Grace L. is the wife of Henry Peterson and resides in Battle Creek township; and Hattie Sophronia is deceased. James L. Joslyn was a Republican in politics and he was a delegate to a number of county Republican conventions. He was possessed of considerable talent as a musician and his two surviving children are also talented

Hosted by Google

musicians. His demise occurred January 14, 1910, and his brother Joel, mentioned above, died on the 21st of January, 1910. Mrs. Joslyn survives her honored husband and resides with her son Victor H. She is a devout member of the Christian church and is a woman of most gracious and winning personality.

To the district schools of Battle Creek township Victor H. Joslyn is indebted for his educational training. He has resided on the farm, which he now owns and operates, since he was a child of but four years of age. When large enough he began to assist his father in the work and management thereof and as his father advanced in years he took over the entire responsibility of the estate. He devotes his attention to general farming and his finely kept place is indicative of thrift and good business judgment on the part of the owner. The farm consists of one hundred and sixty acres, all of which is under cultivation. In a fraternal way Mr. Joslyn is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Grange or Patrons of Husbandry. His political allegiance is accorded to the Republican party.

March 25, 1896, Mr. Joslyn married Miss Edith P. Eggleston, a daughter of Samuel and Jemima (Wood) Eggleston, the former of whom was born in New York and the latter in Calhoun county, Michigan. For many years Mr. Eggleston has been a prominent and influential farmer in Battle Creek township. Mrs. Joslyn was born near Battle Creek, August 30, 1867, and she was the first in order of birth in a family of four children. Mr. and Mrs. Joslyn are the parents ot one son, Leo E., whose birth occurred on the 13th of February, 1898. Mrs. Joslyn is a member of the Congregational church.

ORLOW A. MINGES. Among the prominent and influential citizens of Battle Creek township, Calhoun county, Michigan, Orlow A. Minges holds prestige as one who has achieved remarkable success as a farmer. He is the owner of a fine estate in the close vicinity of Battle Creek and in addition to running his farm he takes an active interest in township politics, having at one time been incumbent of the responsible position of township treasurer.

On the old homestead farm in Battle Creek township, Calhoun county, Michigan, Orlow Amidon Minges was born, the date of his nativity being the 29th of May, 1867. His rudimentary educational training consisted of such advantages as were offered in the neighboring district schools, which he attended up to the eighth grade, and he also pursued a commercial course in the Krugs Business College, at Battle Creek. After leaving school he returned to the farm, in the work and management of which he assisted his father, Abram Minges, data concerning whose career appears in the sketch dedicated to Erwin G. Minges, brother of the subject of this article. Orlow A. resided at home until his marriage, in 1900, when he and his bride settled on a fine little estate of forty acres just across the road from the old Minges homestead. Mr. Minges is engaged in farming and stock-raising and he ranks as one of the foremost citizens of Battle Creek township. In politics he is an uncompromising Republican and he takes an active and interested part in township politics. He was elected township treasurer and he held that office for a period of two years.

February 26, 1900, Mr. Minges married Miss Sada Hamlin, a daughter of Cyprian and Louisa Hamlin, the former of whom was engaged in farming near Battle Creek during the greater portion of his active career. He died in 1904 and Mrs. Hamlin passed away in 1867. They were both natives of the state of New York. Mr. and Mrs. Minges are the fond parents of two children,—Ruth and Meda, aged, respectively, 20 and 14 years.

Hosted by Google

Mr. Minges is a man of fine mentality and broad human sympathy. He thoroughly enjoys home life and takes great pleasure in the society of his family and friends. He is always courteous, kindly and affable, and those who know him personally accord him the highest esteem. Mr. and Mrs. Minges' lives have been exemplary in all respects and they have ever supported those interests which are calculated to uplift and benefit humanity, while their own high moral worth is deserving of the highest commendation.

FRANK MINGES. At this juncture in a volume devoted to the careers of representative citizens of Calhoun county, Michigan, it is a pleasure to insert a brief history of Frank Minges, who has ever been on the alert to forward all measures and enterprises projected for the good of the general welfare and who has served his community in various official positions of trust and responsibility. He has been township treasurer of Battle Creek township, has served as delegate to various Republican county conventions and at the present time, in 1912, is incumbent of the office of highway commissioner. He owns and operates a fine farm in Battle Creek township and is recognized as one of the prominent citizens of this section of the county.

Frank Minges was born on the old homestead farm, in Battle Creek township, April 22, 1873, and he is a son of Abram and Eugenia (Amidon) Minges, the former of whom is deceased and the latter of whom is now living in Battle Creek township. On other pages of this work appears a sketch dedicated to the career of Erwin G. Minges and therein will be found a summary of the life of Abram Minges, so that further details in that connection are not deemed necessary at this point, as easy reference can be made to the sketch mentioned.

Frank Minges was educated in the public schools of Battle Creek township and in 1891 he was graduated in the Battle Creek high school. He has always lived on the old home farm and is operating it at the present time. It consists of 200 acres and is located 4 miles distant from Battle Creek. In his political proclivities Mr. Minges is a stanch adherent of the principles upheld by the Republican party, in the local councils of which he is an active factor. He was elected to the office of township treasurer and he held that responsible position for a period of two years. On various occasions he has been delegate to county conventions and he is regarded as a man of good judgment and well weighs all affairs affecting the welfare of the township and county, and is a public spirited citizen. In 1909 he was elected highway commissioner and he is incumbent of that office at present. For the past twenty-two years he has been a valued member of the Grange.

September 1, 1910, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Minges to Miss Laura Adams, who was born and reared in Battle Creek township and who is a daughter of Jasper and Ella Adams. Mr. Adams is an agriculturist in this township, whither he came from Vermont. Mr. and Mrs. Minges have no children. They are popular factors in connection with the social affairs in their home community and their residence is a center of genial hospitality.

ERWIN G. MINGES. Many of the ablest men in America are ardent devotees of the great basic industry of agriculture and it is well that this is so because the various learned professions are rapidly becoming so crowded with inefficient practitioners that in a few years it will be practically impossible for any but the exceptionally talented man to make good or even gain a competing living therein. The independent farmer, who, in addition to tilling the soil, cultivates his mind and

Hosted by Google

retains his health, is a man much to be envied in these days of strenuous bustle and nervous energy. He lives his life as he chooses and is always safe from financial ravages and other troubles of the so-called "cliff-dweller." An able and representative agriculturist, who has done much to advance progress and conserve prosperity in Calhoun county, Michigan, is Erwin G. Minges, who owns and operates a finely improved farm in Battle Creek township.

Erwin G. Minges was born in Battle Creek township, Calhoun county, Michigan, May 27, 1865, and is a son of Abram and Eugenia (Amidon) Minges, the former of whom was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, in 1818, and the latter was born in New York, in 1845. Abram Minges came to Michigan at the age of eighteen years. He learned the trade of mill wright. In 1849 he joined the gold-seekers on their way to the new "Eldorado" in California and remained in that commonwealth for two years, at the expiration of which he returned to Michigan, settling in Battle Creek township, where he cultivated a fine farm, on which he resided until his demise, April 1, 1908, at the patriarchal age of ninety years. He erected a grist mill near his home farm and ran the same for two years. He also built a number of other mills, among them being the old Hart Mill in the city of Battle Creek. He was twice married, his first union having been to Miss Elsie Cowlam, of St. Joseph county, Michigan. Two children were born to this union but both are deceased. Mrs. Minges died and December 24, 1863, Mr. Minges was united in marriage to Miss Eugenia Amidon, a native of New York, whence she accompanied her parents to Michigan in 1860, at the age of fifteen years. Mr. and Mrs. Minges became the parents of four children, three of whom are living, in 1912, namely,—Erwin G., of this notice; Orlow and Frank. Mrs. Minges is still living, her home being in Battle Creek township. Mr. Minges was a stanch Republican in his political convictions and for five years he was township supervisor. He was a man of splendid business ability and he was always ready to do all in his power to advance the general welfare of the community in which he lived.

Erwin G. Minges was reared to maturity on the old homestead farm, in the work and management of which he early began to assist his father, and he was educated in the district schools of Battle Creek township. He also completed a commercial course in the Battle Creek Business College. Since reaching man's estate he has been engaged in farming and October 4, 1888, he settled on his fine estate of forty acres, located 4 miles distant from Battle Creek. He is engaged in diversified agriculture and stock-raising and has been decidedly successful in his farming operations. In politics he is a Republican and at one time he was the popular and efficient incumbent of the office of township clerk.

October 3, 1888, Mr. Minges married Miss Cora B. Cummings, a daughter of Enoch and Mary Cummings, of Battle Creek township. The Cummings family traces its ancestry back to old English stock, the emigrant ancestor in America having come hither in the Mayflower. Enoch Cummings was born in New York, in 1821, and he died in 1886. He came to Michigan in April, 1845, and here married Mary Barlow, also of New York. Mrs. Cummings is still living and of her six children Mrs. Minges was the second in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Minges are the parents of two children,—Elsie M., who is now Mrs. Victor Scramlin, of Climax; and Clayton C., who remains at the parental home. At the present time, in 1912, there are five generations of the Minges family living.

Hosted by Google

WILLIAM J. SYLVESTER. Calhoun county, Michigan, figures as one of the most attractive, progressive and prosperous divisions of the state, justly claiming a high order of citizenship and a spirit of enterprise which is certain to conserve consecutive development and marked advancement in the material upbuilding of this section. The county has been and is signally favored in the class of men who has contributed to its development along commercial and agricultural lines, and in the latter connection the subject of this review demands recognition as he is engaged in agricultural pursuits, in connection with his father-in-law, Fred W. Cowles, on a fine estate of 275 acres, in Battle Creek township.

William J. Sylvester was born in Barry county, Michigan, January 20, 1881, and he is a son of the late Joseph Henry Sylvester, who was born in Pennsylvania, January 8, 1854. As a young man the father came to Michigan and here married Addie S. Fry, a daughter of Benjamin Fry, of Pennsylvania. The wedding ceremony was performed in 1878. Joseph Henry Sylvester was engaged in farming in Assyria township, Barry county, Michigan, during the greater part of his active career and he was summoned to the life eternal September 13, 1903. Mrs. Sylvester subsequently married John Frank Wright and they reside in Barry county. In his religious faith Joseph H. Sylvester was a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He and his wife were the parents of four children, namely,—Charles, Elmer, William J., and John H. Charles and Elmer are deceased.

To the public schools of Barry county William J. Sylvester is indebted for his early educational training, which was supplemented with one year's attendance in high school at Assyria Center. After reaching years of maturity he came to Battle Creek, where for a period of eight months he was engaged in the livery business. In 1906 he began to work for the Duplex Printing Company and he was in the employ of that concern for a period of three years. After his marriage, in 1909, he became associated with his father-in-law, Fred W. Cowles, in running the old Cowles homestead, a fine estate of 106 acres, eligibly located four and one-fourth miles distant from Battle Creek. Mr. Cowles and Mr. Sylvester are engaged in diversified agriculture and in the raising of high-grade stock. Fine buildings located in the midst of well cultivated fields are the best indication of the prosperity and thrift of the owners of the estate and the same is equipped with every possible modern convenience.

November 11, 1909, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Sylvester to Miss Bertha A. Cowles, a daughter of Fred W. and Lovina Cowles, both of whom were born in Calhoun county, the former on the 2d of April, 1860, and the latter February 28, 1860. Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester have one child, Walter J., whose birth occurred on the 22d of September, 1910.

While Mr. Sylvester has never manifested aught of ambition for the honors and emoluments of public office he is ever on the alert to forward all measures and enterprises advanced for the good of the general welfare. In a fraternal way he is a valued member of the Knights of the Maccabees.

FRANK I. WETZEL, of Battle Creek, Michigan, is a horticulturist and landscape gardener of some renown. Mr. Wetzel is a member of a firm controlling a large nursery business in Battle Creek, and besides his duties in connection with this he does a great deal of designing for the laying out of individual estates. Both because of his artistic sense and his practical knowledge he has achieved a big success in this latter work,

Hosted by Google

and is so eagerly sought that he could employ his whole time as a landscape artist if he cared to.

John Wetzel, the father of Frank Wetzel, was born in Germany, in 1834 and came to America with his parents when he was between twelve and thirteen years of age. They settled in Albany, New York, and after John left school he entered the nursery business. With the breaking out of the Civil war he left his work and enlisted as a Zouave in Company B, 140th New York Regiment, serving for three years. After the war was over he migrated to Painesville, Ohio, and again took up the nursery business. Politically a Republican, and a member of the Catholic church he was an active citizen of Painesville until his death in June, 1910. He was married to Cynthia Margaret Leflet, a native of Germany, in Rochester, New York, and from their union were born twelve children. Every one of the seven sons, Joseph of Fremont, Ohio, John of Painesville, Frank I., George I., of Battle Creek, Edward of Painesville, Charles of Painesville, and Henry, followed in the footsteps of their father and entered the nursery business. Of the girls Cynthia is now Mrs. La Rue of Painesville; Maggie is Mrs. Beattle of Nashville, North Carolina; Barbara is Mrs. Hathaway of Madison, Ohio; Lizzie is Mrs. Jacobs of Painesville; Anna of St. Louis, Missouri. Mrs. Wetzel is still living in Painesville.

Frank I. Wetzel was born in Rochester, New York, December 13, 1875, but spent most of his childhood in Painesville, Ohio, as his father moved west soon after his birth. He attended the public schools there, but from the age of ten on, spent his vacations in learning his father's business, so that by the time he was ready to leave school he was already an expert nurseryman. A good testimonial to his skill in that direction is given in the fact that he was employed for eighteen years by Storse and Harrison. In 1901 he came to Battle Creek, Michigan, and formed the firm of the Battle Creek Nursery Company. This has been a highly successful concern and now consists of sixty acres of actual stock. Their specialties are ornamental shrubs, trees, grapes, apples, peaches, plums, currants, and strawberries. A great deal of their business has been secured through novel ways of advertising originated by Mr. Wetzel. At present the attention of nearly every passerby is attracted by a misspelled word in the large sign hung in front of the nursery. Three years ago Mr. W. A. Helmer became a partner and the firm is now known as the Helmer Farm Nursery.

Mr. Wetzel attends the Catholic church, and belongs to the Republican party.

JOHN V. WOOD of Battle Creek township, Calhoun county, Michigan, is a contradiction to the prevailing spirit of restlessness of the present generation. He was born and has lived the whole sixty-four years of his life on the same farm. His father Barnett Wood was born in Steuben county, New York, in 1813, but the desire to go west animated him as it did other young men of his time, and he became one of the earliest settlers of Calhoun county, Michigan. John V. Wood was born May 12, 1847, in Battle Creek township, and in 1867 he was married to Clara Reese, the daughter of Albert Reese. They have had four children, Mark T., who married Miss Lily Swailes and is living on the home farm; Nettie, who is now Mrs. Porter; Myrtle, now Mrs. Christian; and Nina, now Mrs. Griffin. Mr. Wood is a Republican and belongs to the Maccabees.

MYRON YOUNG belongs to one of the old and substantial families of Battle Creek township, Calhoun county, Michigan. He and his father

Hosted by Google

before him have occupied the one farm since 1861. David Young, Myron's father, was born in New York December 12, 1816, the son of Joseph Young, a man with a strong religious interest, and who after serving for many years as a deacon in the Presbyterian church finally joined the Adventists. Joseph Young retired from active life in 1861, and died November 22, 1878, at the age of eighty-five years, ten months, and twenty-one days. David Young left New York in May, 1832, and settled on the farm in Battle Creek township where his son is now living. Besides his work on the farm he acted for many years as a justice of the peace. A Republican and a Presbyterian he also took an active interest in politics and his church. On October 23, 1845, he was married to Delila Hilmer of Battle Creek township, and from their union five children were born, of whom only two are now living, Myron, and Edward, at present in Battle Creek. Mr. Young died in 1898 at the age of seventy-two years, two months and twenty-one days, and on August 23, 1909, Mr. Young followed her.

Myron Young, who was born on the farm in Battle Creek township, October 9, 1852, has spent his whole life on the old homestead. His first marriage took place with Josephine Dewey, April 26, 1879, and they became the parents of two children, Jennie and Burr, who died in infancy. Mrs. Young died in 1894 at the age of thirty-eight, and in 1898 Mr. Young was married again, this time to Mrs. Eugenia Murdock, a widow and the daughter of Edward and Triphena Goodenough. Mrs. Young was born August 4, 1858. They have had no children. Their present house, on their farm of one hundred and sixty acres, is a large and imposing one, built by Mr. Young to replace the stone one built by his grandfather in 1841 and which was destroyed by fire July 10, 1910. Mr. Young is a Republican.

HARRY MAPES is a substantial and prosperous farmer of Calhoun county, Michigan. Born in Kalamazoo county, May 14, 1877, he was the third child in a family of nine children of whom George W. and Prudence Jane (Eggleston) Mapes were the parents. George W. Mapes was born in Battle Creek township, April 17, 1848, the son of Anson Mapes, who came to Michigan in 1836 and settled in Calhoun county. Mr. and Mrs. George Mapes were married December 29, 1870, and Mr. Mapes, who is retired from active life, is now living in Battle Creek. He belongs to the Democratic party.

Harry Mapes spent his early life on the farm, receiving his education in the country schools. He was married October 15, 1905, to Loriah N. Fox, the daughter of William A. Fox, of Barry county. They have had two children, George and Wilma G. Mr. Mapes owns 160 acres of land. He is a Democrat.

ALBERT EMANUEL PETERS. An enterprising and thriving agriculturist, Albert Emanuel Peters is a fine representative of the native-born citizens of Homer township, Calhoun county, his birth having occurred on the farm where he now resides, February 15, 1874, being an industrious and perservering farmer, and the worthy son of a worthy sire.

His father, Andrew Peters, son of Henry and Elizabeth (Bressler) Peters, was born, February 23, 1832, in Union county, Pennsylvania, of German ancestry. Coming to Michigan in the fifties, he spent several years at Colon, St. Joseph county. In 1865 he moved with his family to Calhoun county, locating in Homer township, on the farm now occupied by his son Albert, and embarked in agricultural pursuits, as a general farmer meeting with satisfactory pecuniary results.

Hosted by Google

In 1893 he took up his residence in the village of Homer, and there lived retired from active business until his death, November 10, 1907. Identified with the Republican party, he held various township offices, serving as commissioner of highways, and as drainage commissioner. He was a member of the local Grange, and both he and his wife belonged to the Presbyterian church. He married Rebecca Wagner, who was born in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, April 4, 1836, a daughter of Daniel and Susanna (Yeatter) Wagner, who were likewise of German descent, their marriage being celebrated in 1854. Six children were born of their union, and all are now living, as follows: William, Daniel H., Joseph Franklin, Rosa Ellen, Edward Jacob, and Albert E.

Brought up in Homer township, Albert E. Peters acquired his early education in the Boutin district school, and on the home farm was well drilled in the art of agriculture. His parents gave up farming when he was eighteen years old, and he accompanied them to Homer, where he learned how to make good butter, working at that trade for two years in a creamery. The ensuing two years he was engaged in the grocery business with his brother, after which he spent two years in Eckford. Turning back to the soil in 1901, Mr. Peters assumed charge of the farm of one hundred acres, and in its management has found a great deal of pleasure and much profit.

On February 19th, 1896, Mr. Peters was united in marriage with Clara Mae Cook, a daughter of John D. Cook, a prominent farmer of Clarendon township, and they have one child, Dorothy Mae Peters. Politically Mr. Peters is a Republican, and fraternally he belongs to the Knights of the Maccabees.

WILLIAM E. CORNELL. Probably no educational institution in Battle Creek has a more practical relation to the business community, and the individual welfare of many young men and women than the Graham School of Shorthand, which with the completion of its tenth year in September, 1912, was opened in its new home, in the Arcade, West Main Street, and it has been the aim of its owner to make it as thoroughly equipped and as complete in every detail as any Shorthand School in the State.

The founder and proprietor has had excellent success as an educator, this success being based on a very extended experience in practical work for which he trains his pupils, and few shorthand school proprietors have had a more interesting and varied career than his has been.

The school was given the name of the system which is taught, the system most generally employed for business and general reporting. This is first of all a shorthand school, aiming to thoroughly fit young men and women as competent stenographers, but in connection with it, maintains a thoroughly up-to-date bookkeeping and penmanship department, Mr. Cornell being a past-master in the latter branch.

Associated with Mr. Cornell in the conduct of the school is his wife, who is an experienced bookkeeper, and has charge of that branch of the work; and together, with the help of additional instructors, they have built the school up from a small beginning to its present size, the past year there being an attendance of 175 pupils.

After graduating from the public school of his home town in Northern Michigan, Mr. Cornell began the study of shorthand in 1875, coming to Battle Creek the following year, and entering the old Battle Creek College, where he remained for three years. At that time he was one of the few young men to choose the art of stenography as the basis of his business career, and received but little encouragement in

Hosted by Google

his effort from his friends; but he stuck to it and became very proficient. He claims the distinction of being the first regularly employed stenographer in Battle Creek, and for over a year acted as Dr. Kellogg's first stenographer. He has always maintained a very keen interest in the stenographic art, and were he to undertake it, he could write a very interesting story of the many changes that have taken place in the art during his experience.

In 1883, after his marriage, he removed to Des Moines, Iowa, where he lived for fifteen years, during which time he was continuously employed in shorthand work, acting as private stenographer for the Governor of the State, also for various committees during several sittings of the legislature, and in office and newspaper work.

A unique and interesting experience of his career was his service for three years as private stenographer for a gentleman who spent that period abroad.

Since establishing his school in 1902, he has continued to do considerable reporting which requires special skill, at conventions, lectures, court work, etc., and has been relied upon to report the speeches of noted visitors to the city, like Taft, Roosevelt, Bryan and others. His notes have the appearance of copper-plate, so perfectly are the characters formed, even when reporting a rapid speaker.

Mr. Cornell was married at Jefferson, Iowa, December 24, 1882, to Miss Irene L. Colcord, who was a native of Illinois, being born at Sterling, where she spent the greater part of her early life. For five years she was engaged in public school teaching, after which she took a thorough commercial school training and for fourteen years since her marriage has been engaged in practical bookkeeping work, an experience which has proved of exceptional value in her work of teaching that branch.

Mr. and Mrs. Cornell's home is at 81 Howland Street. Their only child died at the age of six years, but they have been greatly interested in young people, quite a number of whom they have taken into their home and educated, several of whom they have adopted.

CHRISTIAN HORNBERGER. Another of Marshall's German born citizens, who has reared his family and gained a plentitude of this world's goods during his residence in this city is Christian Hornberger. His birthplace was Wurtemberg, Germany, and his parents were George and Christina (Schaible) Hornberger, who emigrated in 1866 to Fredonia township, Calhoun county, Michigan. His brothers and sisters all reside in this state. Mathias is a prosperous farmer of Fredonia township; George is a painter, residing in Lansing; Christina is the wife of Louis Younghind of Lansing, and John is also a resident of Lansing.

Christian Hornberger began this life's activities in the German fatherland on the 25th day of January, 1846, and was twenty years of age when the voyage of the family to America was undertaken. After the landing in New York the young man came directly to Marshall, and then to Kalamazoo, where he remained for one year. At the end of that time he made a journey to the far west, where he continued to occupy his time in various occupations for two years. During this time he was located chiefly in Kansas. Eventually, however, the homelike atmosphere of Marshall again attracted him, with the result that in 1873 he returned to his first American home. Here he began in a small way to build up a brewery business. He met with success, his commercial operations gradually growing in extent and in pecuniary importance, and he continued in the business until the

Hosted by Google

year 1881, when he disposed of his brewery interests. Mr. Hornberger then engaged in the wholesale beer business, supplying Marshall and many of the neighboring towns in Calhoun and adjoining counties.

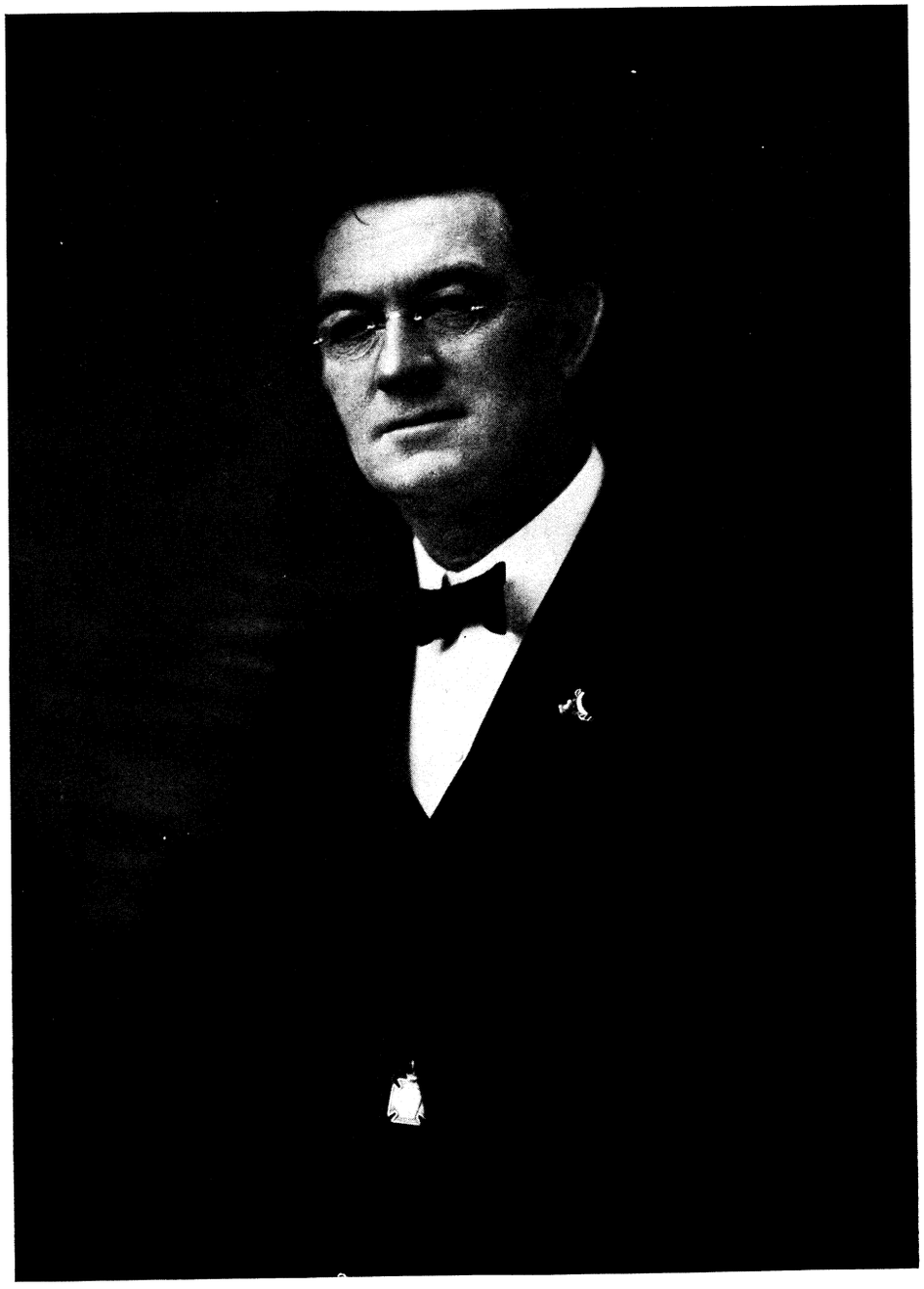
During the second year after his return to Marshall, Mr. Hornberger was united in marriage with Miss Mary Roller. She is a native of Saginaw and the daughter of Peter Roller, who was among Saginaw's earliest settlers but later moved to Marshall and was for many years a merchant in that city. Four daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hornberger, concerning whom the following brief mention is made: Anna is the wife of Henry Spees, of Marshall, Michigan; Lillian lives at home; Laura, a graduate in music, is the wife of Earl R. Page, also in Marshall, and Louisa makes her home with her parents.

The residence of the Hornberger family is a commodious and comfortable one, well looked after by its owner, who since his retirement from business, has occupied his time chiefly in the oversight of this and his other extensive properties, all of which are located in the city of Marshall. He enjoys excellent health and looks back with satisfaction upon his steady rise from financial dependence to affluence, through the exercise of industry and close attention to business. His political interests are those of the Democratic party. His chief enjoyments are domestic rather than social or fraternal, his only affiliation with organizations of a fraternal nature being with the State Arbeiter Society and the Order of Maccabees.

HENRY V. SNYDER. As general contractors the firm of H. V. Snyder & Son, of Battle Creek, control a business that far transcends local limitations, with the result that the concern holds prestige as one of the most important of its kind in southern Michigan. The operations of the firm have extended into the most diverse sections of Michigan and also in to the states of Illinois and Indiana, and no better commercial asset could be asked than that afforded in the high reputation enjoyed by this progressive and substantial business firm of Battle Creek. In the control of his extensive business Henry V. Snyder has an effective coadjutor in the person of his only son, Leon R., who is junior member of the firm. Mr. Snyder has shown splendid initiative and executive ability during his exceptionally active and successful business career, and is a man whose broad and liberal views, wide experience and abiding public spirit make him a valuable citizen of the city in which his interests are centered and in which he commands secure vantage ground in popular confidence and esteem.

Henry Vandling Snyder claims the fine old Keystone state of the Union as the place of his nativity and is a scion of sterling pioneer families of that commonwealth. He was born at Danville, Montour county, Pennsylvania, on the 4th of July, 1856, and in his career he has fully manifested that independence which his natal day implies. He is a son of William H. and Mary E. (Artley) Snyder, both of whom were born and reared in Pennsylvania, where their marriage was solemnized and where the father learned the mason's trade in his youth. At the time of the Civil war William H. Snyder enlisted for a term of ninety days, and he took part in the memorable and sanguinary battle of Gettysburg, as well as other engagements. He was a member of a Pennsylvania regiment and received his honorable discharge at the close of his term of enlistment. In the spring of 1865 he came with his family to Michigan and located in Lockport township, St. Joseph county, whence he removed to Park township, that county, in the following year. There he continued to be identified with agricultural pursuits until his removal to the village of Mendon, in the same county, and he

Hosted by Google



Henry L. Snyder

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

continued to maintain his home there until his death, which occurred in 1907, his loved and devoted wife having there been summoned to the life eternal in May, 1893. Mr. Snyder continued to be actively and successfully engaged in business as a mason contractor until 1878, when he was succeeded by his son Henry V., of this review, and thereafter he lived virtually retired until his death, at the venerable age of 76 years. He was a staunch Republican in politics and both he and his wife were members of the Methodist church. They became the parents of eleven children of whom seven are now living, the subject of this sketch having been the third in order of birth and three of the children having been born after the family removed to Michigan. John W. is a resident of the city of Chicago; Daniel M. resides at Gladwin, Michigan; Sarah is the wife of John W. Miller of Mendon, this state; Margaret is the wife of George A. Ingersoll, of that place; Mary E. is the wife of Andrew O. Weinberg, of Three Rivers, Michigan; and Matilda, is the wife of Otto W. Seeb, of La Grange, Indiana.

Henry V. Snyder was about nine years of age at the time of the family removal from Pennsylvania to Michigan and was reared to adult age in Park township, St. Joseph county. He made good use of the advantages afforded him in the public schools of the locality and period, as is indicated by the fact that he was a successful and popular teacher in the district schools for eleven winter terms,—in St. Joseph and Kalamazoo counties. As a youth he learned the mason's trade under the able direction of his honored father and he was associated with the latter in the contracting business at Menden until the spring of 1875, when he initiated independent operations in this line, with which he has been continuously identified and along which he has achieved marked success and wide reputation. In the meanwhile he has been identified with the agricultural industry in a subsidiary way, as he has owned several farms in southern Michigan. At the present time he has a well improved and valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres, in Assyria township, Barry county, near the Calhoun county line, besides which he is the owner of a considerable amount of excellent realty in Battle Creek.

Mr. Snyder continued to maintain his home in St. Joseph county until the autumn of 1887, when he removed to a small farm in Van Buren county, two miles east of the village of Lawton. He continued to give his attention to contracting, however, and did not personally supervise the work of his farm. In the fall of 1889 he removed to the city of Chicago, and he became one of the most extensive and successful contractors of the great western metropolis. From 1891 to 1899 he confined his business principally to mason contracting, and since the latter years he has been a general contractor. In Chicago he was associated in business with his brother, John W., under the firm name of Snyder Brothers, and they handled many important contracts in and about that city. In the spring of 1908, Mr. Snyder came to Battle Creek, where he has since maintained his residence and business headquarters and, as already stated, the firm of H. V. Snyder & Son, general contractors, is one of the most important of its kind in southern Michigan. The firm has recently completed the erection of a large and modern plant for the Uncle Sam Macaroni Company, at Tecumseh, Michigan, and more than two thousand barrels of cement were used in the construction of the fine building. The firm has had also seven different contracts with the Michigan Central Railroad Company, on construction work in Chicago and at other points. In a sketch of this order it is, of course, impossible to note in detail the important contracts executed by H. V. Snyder, but a brief list of buildings constructed may con-

Hosted by Google

sistently be given: High school, Three Rivers, Michigan; Baptist College, Kalamazoo, Michigan; Post Tavern, Battle Creek; Crawford Hotel, Crawfordsville, Indiana; Illinois Hotel, Bloomington, Illinois; Hackley Library, Muskegon, Michigan, and public library at Three Rivers; Plan of Constantine Hydraulic Company, Constantine, Michigan; two buildings for the firm of Deere & Company, Moline, Illinois; malt house of American Malting Company, Chicago; Michigan Central freight house in Chicago, paint shop in Jackson, Michigan and depots at Hammond, Indiana, and Oxford, Michigan; reinforced concrete dam at Centerville, Michigan; Elks temples at Battle Creek and Dowagiac, Michigan. and a number of fine buildings for the Union Steam Pump Company, among which are the main machine shops and an office building. This firm has also constructed a number of large additions for the Advance & Rumley Company, and is at present engaged in the building of a one hundred and fifty foot addition to the present foundry of that company. Mr. Snyder is the contractor and supervisor in charge of the erection of the ten story addition to the Post Tavern in Battle Creek, and has had many of the most important contracts in connection with building construction in Battle Creek.

In politics Mr. Snyder is a stalwart in the camp of the Republican party, but he has no predilection for political office. In the city of Chicago he holds membership in the Builders' & Traders' Exchange, of which he is a director, and there also he is a member of the Mason Builders' Association. In his home city he is affiliated with Battle Creek Lodge, No. 12, Free & Accepted Masons; Battle Creek Chapter, Royal Arch Masons Commandery, and with the local organization of the Knights of Pythias, the Royal Arcanum and the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, besides which he is identified with the Athelstan Club.

On the 26th of December, 1882, M. Snyder was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Benfer, who was born and reared in Park township, St. Joseph county, Michigan, and who is a daughter of Henry Benfer, a representative farmer of that county; both Mr. Benfer and his wife are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder have one son, Leon Romaine, who was born at Mendon, Michigan, on the 27th of December, 1883, and who received his education in the public schools of Chicago, where he was reared to manhood and received his initial business training. Leon R. Snyder has been twice married and has one son, Leon R., Jr., who was born in Battle Creek, September 18, 1904, and who is being reared in the home of his paternal grandfather. On the 5th of March, 1911, Leon R. Snyder contracted a second marriage, having then espoused Miss Nellie Wenrich, who was born and reared at Joplin, Missouri, where her father is a representative business man. They reside at 74 Henry Street, and Mr. Snyder, like his father, is a Republican and is identified with the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Henry V. Snyder has an attractive modern residence at 202 North Washington Avenue, and the same is pervaded by an atmosphere of generous and unostentatious hospitality. The offices of the firm of H. V. Snyder & Son are located at 55 South McCamly street.

O. Fenn Spaulding. Among the successful young business men of Battle Creek, O. Fenn Spaulding has a high place of esteem. Through good management and basing his service on the best interests of the public, he has elevated his profession and business to a worthy dignity and appreciation in this city. The undertaking business of which he and his brother are proprietors is located at 24 Marshall street.

Mr. Spaulding was born in this city, December 30, 1881, and be-

Hosted by Google

longs to one of the old and highly respected families of Calhoun county. His grandparents, John Allen and Eliza Adeline (Smith) Spaulding, were among the early settlers of Emmett township in this county. The father was the late Henry C. Spaulding, who was superintendent of the city parks of Battle Creek at the time of his death, which occurred July 3, 1903. He was born in Emmett township, January 23, 1845, and up to the last twenty-three years of his life was engaged in farming. He then moved to this city and for a number of years worked at the carpenter trade, which he gave up finally on account of ill health. During his youth in Emmett township he had attended what was known as the Spaulding school. He was a Republican in politics, and was affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Select Knights. He married Miss Lucy A. Carey, of Newton township, a daughter of Charles Carey. Since the death of her husband she has resided in Los Angeles, California. The four sons and one daughter of these parents were: Frank C., who is the associate of his brother O. F.; May E., who lives with her mother in California; V. E., a druggist of Kalamazoo; H. Allen, who died September 19, 1910; and O. F., the youngest of the family.

Mr. Spaulding was reared and educated in Battle Creek, and except for five years' residence in Wisconsin, for the purpose of regaining his health, he has always lived in this city. His business he acquired through practical experience, working for W. S. Keet and for William D. Farley, undertakers of this city. In 1904 he was made a state licensed embalmer, and also obtained a state license from Wisconsin during his residence there. In the building at 24 Marshall street he began business for himself in 1904, and was the first tenant of these rooms which he had arranged to suit the purposes of the business. Having a silent partner, he did the business under the name of O. F. Spaulding & Company. After bringing the establishment to a profitable condition, ill health caused him to sell out to Caldwell & Hayner, and he then removed to Wisconsin. In October, 1911, he and his brother Frank again bought the establishment, and have continued the business in a very successful manner.

Mr. Spaulding is a member of the Elks lodge and of the Baptist church. On November 18, 1903, he was married to Miss Carol G. Payne. She was born in Union City, but received her education in Battle Creek. Her father is Victor T. Payne, who has been identified with the Nichols & Shepard Company for the past thirty years, and is one of the superintendents of the works and a stockholder in the company. Mr. and Mrs. Spaulding, are the parents of two children: Carlton F., born March 27, 1905; and Isidine L., born in 1911.

Victor T. Payne. Forty years ago Victor T. Payne entered the employ of The Nichols & Shepard Company, then a small but enterprising concern, and began his business career in Battle Creek in a humble capacity. A number of other young men were coming here, full of hope and ambition, and resolved to win fame and fortune, many of them setting out in the race better equipped, to all appearances, than Mr. Payne. They had friends or money, many both, and some a college education; Mr. Payne had none of these. Some of these young men failed utterly, others achieved only a small measure of success, but what has been accomplished by Mr. Payne is well known to the citizens of Battle Creek. At the present time he is a stockholder in the concern with which he has been connected for so long, and to the success of which he has so materially contributed, and is recognized as an influential factor in the manufacturing interests of the city.

Hosted by Google

Victor T. Payne was born in Battle Creek township, Calhoun county, Michigan, September 1, 1852, and is a son of Rufus and Jane (Laraway) Payne.

Rufus Payne was born August 16, 1822, at Victor, New York, and was nineteen years of age when he came to Michigan and settled at Marshall. There he was married at the old Pacey House to Jane Laraway, who was born in Washtenaw county, Michigan, and who was brought to Marshall as a child, their union resulting in the birth of three sons: Fred, born in Battle Creek township, who died at the age of seventeen years; Victor T.; and Claud G., born in LeRoy township, and died in Battle Creek, October 25, 1907, at the age of fifty-one years, his wife passing away July 25, 1907, and their two daughters now being residents of Los Angeles, California. Rufus Payne was a sawmill operator, and during the earlier years of his life operated a mill in Battle Creek township, subsequently being the owner of a mili in LeRoy township for about twenty years, and finally retiring from active business and moving to the city of Battle Creek about six years before his death, which occurred February 2, 1881. His wife passed away August 28, 1895, and both are buried in Beckley Cemetery in Battle Creek township.

Victor T. Payne received his educational training in the district school of Battle Creek township, and in May, 1872, entered the employ of the Nichols & Shepard Company as a member of the packing room force. General efficiency and faithfulness to duty caused his promotion from time to time, and for about thirteen years he traveled extensively for the company, subsequently becoming a foreman. He has been foreman of various departments, and now has charge of the planing room and is a stockholder in the company. A natural-born mechanic, possessed of progressive ideas and the ability to carry them out, Mr. Payne has been constantly seeking to improve the product of the company. With a fellow employe he made the first Flagg Separator from the original draught, subsequently patented the Payne Feeder, which is manufactured by the concern, and has later improved at different times the other machinery owned by the company. He has demonstrated his confidence in the future of Battle Creek by investments in real estate, and owns farming property in Battle Creek and LeRoy townships, as well as his home, at No. 251 Marshall street, which he had erected seventeen years ago.

On September 1, 1875, Mr. Payne was married to Miss Frances Isadene Pearl, at the home of the bride, in Battle Creek township, the occasion taking place on Mr. Payne's twenty-third birthday. Mrs. Payne was born in Clinton county, New York, and received her education in the district schools of Battle Creek township, Lyons High school and Olivet College. Her father, Cassius Pearl, was born at Grand Isle, Vermont, in 1812, and was a land owner and speculator in farm lands, and in 1863 came to Calhoun county, Michigan, settling in South Battle Creek, on the old John Pearl place, which had been originally owned by his brother. His death occurred here in 1887, at the age of seventy-five years, while his wife, who bore the maiden name of Rosilla Safford, passed away in February, 1896, at the age of eighty-four years. Their ten children are all still living, Mrs. Payne being the youngest. To Mr. and Mrs. Payne there were born three children: Grace Pearl, born and educated in Battle Creek; Carol G., born in Union City, Branch county, Michigan, and educated in Battle Creek, now the wife of O. F. Spaulding of this city; and John Howard, born in Battle Creek township, educated in Battle Creek, and now a machinist in the employ of the Nichols & Shepard Company. He is

Hosted by Google

a member of the Elks. As a public-spirited citizen Mr. Payne deserves the high credit he possesses in the good opinions of the people of Battle Creek, and his friends in the city are legion.

AWRA A. HOYT, M. D. Dr. Hoyt has gained prestige as one of the able and popular representatives of the medical profession in his native county and is engaged in active general practice in the city of Battle Creek, with offices at 210 Ward building, and residence at 222 Lathrop avenue. He has thoroughly fortified himself for the exacting duties of his chosen profession and in the same is an effective exponent of the benignant Homeopathic school of practice.

Dr. Hoyt was born in Battle Creek on the 27th of July, 1879, and is a son of Wallace A. and Hattie (Pierce) Hoyt, the former of whom was born in Syracuse, New York, and the latter in Barry county, Michigan, where her parents were pioneer settlers. Wallace A. Hoyt passed his boyhood days in his native state, though he was but fifteen years of age when he came to Michigan. He learned the machinist's trade and for a number of years he was employed at his trade in the extensive plant of the Nichols & Shepard Company, of Battle Creek. He then became a locomotive engineer for the Grand Trunk Railway Company and in this capacity he was employed for many years, during which he continued to maintain his home in Battle Creek, where all of his children were born. After his retirement from railroad work he was for a time employed as a machinist by the Union Steam Pump Company, of Battle Creek, and he then purchased a small farm, of thirty acres, in Bedford township, this county, where he and his wife now reside, this change in occupation having been made primarily for the purpose of giving him opportunity to regain his physical powers, his health having become much impaired. He came to Battle Creek soon after the close of the Civil war and he is well known and highly esteemed in the county that has represented his home for many years. The Hoyt family in America was founded by two brothers of the name who immigrated from England and established their home in Massachusetts, in the early colonial era of our national history. The paternal great-great-grandfather of Dr. Hoyt was a valiant soldier of the Continental line in the war of the Revolution, and representatives of the name were also participants in the war of 1812 and the Civil war. The maternal grandparents of Dr. Hoyt were numbered among the pioneer settlers of Eaton county, Michigan, and later removed to Barry county. He whose name initiates this review is the eldest in a family of three children; Teresa L., the second child, died on the 9th of September, 1905, at the age of twenty-one years; and Elsie L. is now the wife of Glenn Beckwith, of Battle Creek.

Dr. Hoyt gained his early education in the public schools of the city in which he was born and which is now his home. He was graduated in the Battle Creek high school in 1899, and in the autumn of the following year he was matriculated in the Homeopathic medical department of the University of Michigan, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1904 and from which he received his degree of Doctor of Medicine. He passed the summer of that year as an interne in the Hahnemann Hospital in the city of Rochester, New York, and he then located in Assyria township, Barry county, Michigan, where he continued in the practice of his profession until the 1st of January, 1907, when he initiated his practice in Battle Creek. He opened an office at 7 East Main street and about one year later he removed to 53 West Main street, where he became associated in practice with Dr. C. C. Landon. In October, 1911, he opened his present

Hosted by Google

office, in the Ward building, and he has since been engaged in practice of a general order. He has built up a substantial and profitable professional business and commands secure place in the confidence and esteem of the people of his native city.

In politics Dr. Hoyt is found arrayed as a staunch advocate of the principles of the National Progressive party, and he is affiliated with Battle Creek Lodge, No. 12, Free & Accepted Masons; Assyria Tent Knights of the Modern Maccabees; and Wideawake Court No. 591, Independent Order of Foresters, of which last mentioned he is examining physician. He is also a member of the County Medical Society and the State Medical Society.

On the 5th of September, 1906, Dr. Hoyt was united in marriage to Miss Helen R. Jewell, who was born and reared at Assyria, Barry county, Michigan, and who is a daughter of Preston K. and Belle (Tompkins) Jewell, representatives of honored pioneer families of that section of the state. Mr. Jewell has long been engaged in the general merchandise business at Assyria and is one of the prominent and influential citizens of that locality. The Tompkins family was founded in Assyria township in the early pioneer days and the family name has been closely identified with the development and progress of Barry county. Dr. and Mrs. Hoyt have one son, Jewell A., who was born on the 28th of April, 1908.

WILLARD N. PUTMAN, M. D. At 205 Ward building, in the city of Battle Creek, are located the office headquarters of this representative young member of the medical profession in Calhoun county, and the substantial practice which he controls offers most effective voucher for his ability as a physician and surgeon and for his possession of those characteristics which make for objective confidence and esteem.

Dr. Willard Nichols Putman claims the old Empire state of the Union as the place of his nativity and is a scion of a family early founded in that commonwealth. He was born on a farm in DePeyster township, St. Lawrence county, New York, on the 12th of April, 1881, and is the younger of the two surviving children of Charles Edward Putman and Lucretia (Willard) Putman, both of whom were born and reared in the state of New York, where their marriage was solemnized and where the former was engaged in agricultural pursuits during the earlier period of his active career. He later became a traveling salesman, with residence and business headquarters in the city of Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he maintained his home until the autumn of 1903, when he removed to Detroit, Michigan, where he has since maintained the agency for the products of the flouring mills of George C. Christian & Company of Minneapolis. He is a staunch Progressive in politics and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. The elder of their two surviving children, is the wife of Ira M. Cook, who is in the employ of the Russell Miller Milling Company, of Minneapolis, in which city he and his wife reside.

Dr. Putman gained his rudimentary education in the public schools of his native state and was fourteen years of age at the time of the family removal to Minneapolis, where he was graduated in the high school as a member of the class of 1900. Thereafter he continued his higher academic studies for two years in Hamline University, in that city, after which he was matriculated in Hahnemann Medical College, in the city of Chicago. In this admirable institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1906, his degree of Doctor of Medicine having been conferred upon him on the 18th of May of that year.

Hosted by Google

From January 1, 1907, until the 1st of the following January he served as interne in the Chicago Homeopathic Hospital, in which he gained valuable and varied clinical experience, and on the 1st of January, 1908, he opened an office in Battle Creek. Here he has built up an excellent general practice, in which he has admirably exemplified the efficacy of the benignant Homeopathic system, and where his support is of representative order. He has put forth every possible effort to fortify himself for the exacting work of his profession and has taken effective post-graduate courses in Chicago, where he availed himself specially of the able instruction given in orificial surgery by Dr. Edward H. Pratt, a distinguished surgeon of the great western metropolis. The Doctor is identified with the Michigan State Homeopathic Medical Society. In politics he is aligned as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Progressive party, and he is affiliated with A. T. Metcalf Lodge, No. 419, Free & Accepted Masons; with Battle Creek Chapter, No. 355, Order of the Eastern Star, of which Mrs. Putman likewise is a member; and with the local organization of the Woodmen of the World. He is a member of the Athelstan Club and both he and his wife attend and support the Maple Street Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mrs Putman is a member.

On the 16th of December, 1908, Dr. Putman was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Gatiss, daughter of Henry Gatiss, of La Salle, Illinois. Mrs. Putman was born and reared in La Salle, where she was graduated in the high school as a member of the class of 1903. She was also graduated in the training school for nurses maintained by the Chicago Homeopathic Hospital, and there formed the acquaintance of her future husband. Dr. and Mrs. Putman have one son, Willard Gatiss, who was born in Battle Creek on the 11th of August, 1909.

RAYMOND D. SLEIGHT, M. D. It is gratifying to be able to accord in this publication specific recognition to an appreciable number of the representative physicians and surgeons of Calhoun county, and well entitled to such consideration is Dr. Sleight, who is engaged in the practice of his profession in the city of Battle Creek, with offices at 201 Post building. In the work of his chosen calling he has seen the expediency of concentration of effort and thus he has become a skilled and successful specialist in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat.

Dr. Sleight finds a due measure of satisfaction in reverting to the fine old Wolverine state as the place of his nativity. He was born on the homestead farm of his parents, in Victor township, Clinton county, Michigan, and made his appearance on the stage of life's activities on the 10th of July, 1875, the eldest of the three sons of James D. and Louise (Reed) Sleight, both of whom still reside on the home farm mentioned, the same being a well improved and valuable landed estate of two hundred acres. James D. Sleight was a valiant soldier of the union in the Civil war, in which he served three and one-half years, as a private in the One Hundred and Fiftieth New York Volunteer Infantry, with which he accompanied General Sherman on the memorable march from Atlanta to the sea. He took part in many of the important engagements marking the progress of the great conflict between the north and the south and as a citizen he has shown equal loyalty in the "piping times of peace." He is one of the substantial agriculturists of Clinton county and is held in unqualified confidence and esteem in the community that has represented his home for many years. He is a Republican in politics. Of the three children the second,

Hosted by Google

Roscoe E. is now professor of mathematics in Albion College, one of the leading educational institutions of Michigan; and Roland W. is a member of the class of 1915 in the Michigan Agricultural College. The two elder sons were graduated in the Laingsburg high school and the youngest son in the high school at St. Johns, the judicial center of Clinton county.

Dr. Raymond D. Sleight was reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm and after completing the curriculum of the district school he entered the high school in the village of Laingsburg, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1893. His ambition did not lie along the line of agricultural enterprise and he early formulated definite plans for his future career. After leaving the high school he was matriculated in the medical department of the University of Michigan, and in the same he was graduated as a member of the class of 1897. After receiving his well earned degree of Doctor of Medicine he opened an office in the village of Maple Rapids, in his native county, and there he continued in active general practice for five years. His distinctive ability and enthusiasm in his profession gained more than local recognition, since, in 1901, he was called back to his alma mater, the University of Michigan, where he was first assistant to the chair of diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, in the medical department, until 1904, in September of which year he established his home in Battle Creek, where he has since controlled a substantial and representative practice as a specialist in the treatment of the diseases just mentioned. In 1907 Dr. Sleight did effective post-graduate work in the city of Vienna, Austria, where he remained one year and where he devoted special attention to the study of and clinical work in the diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, so that he has amply fortified himself for the work of his chosen field of practice. He is the local eye specialist for the Grand Trunk Railway Company and for the Nichols Memorial Hospital.

In politics Dr. Sleight is found aligned as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party. He is president of the Calhoun County Medical Society, and is also actively identified with the Michigan State Medical Society and American Medical Association, as well as the American Academy of Ophthalmology & Otolaryngology. Dr. Sleight is the owner of a valuable farm of one hundred acres in Emmett township, just outside the corporate limits of Battle Creek, and there is reason to believe that much of this land will eventually be included within the city, as everything augurs well for the continuous growth and progress of the fine metropolis of Calhoun county. The doctor is affiliated with Battle Creek Lodge, No. 12, Free & Accepted Masons; Battle Creek Chapter, No. 19, Royal Arch Masons; and Battle Creek Commandery, No. 33, Knights Templar. He is also a popular member of the Athelstan and Country Clubs. He is the owner of his attractive residence property, at 60 Orchard avenue, and the home is known for its cordial and gracious hospitality.

On the 15th of February, 1899, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Sleight to Miss Ambra A. Patterson, daughter of Henry J. Patterson, a representative citizen and business man of St. Johns, Michigan, where Mrs. Sleight was born and reared. Her mother, whose maiden name was Margaret Shattuck, is deceased and her father still resides at St. Johns. Dr. and Mrs. Sleight have no children.

HENRY A. BROMBERG. A popular citizen and enterprising and representative business man of the city of Battle Creek, Mr. Bromberg has manifested the initiative and executive powers which ever make for definite success in connection with the practical affairs of life, and none is more deeply appreciative of the advantages afforded in the United

Hosted by Google

States, none more loyal to our national institutions. He came from Russia to this country when a young man and through earnest and well directed effort has gained secure place as a substantial business man and progressive and public-spirited citizen of the metropolis of Calhoun county. Here he is senior member of the firm of Bromberg & Gregory, wholesale and retail jewelers, and through his energy and ability has been built up a splendid business enterprise—one of the largest and most successful of the kind in southern Michigan.

Henry A. Bromberg was born in the town of Kherson, capital of the province of the same name, in southern Russia, and the date of his nativity was August 7, 1860. He is a scion of one of the sterling families of that section of Russia and his parents there passed their entire lives, his father having been a general broker by vocation. Mr. Bromberg attended the schools of his native town until he had attained to the age of thirteen years and thereafter served an apprenticeship of seven years in the establishment of Karl Maill, the leading jeweler and imperial watchmaker of Russia. In this establishment, located in the city of Odessa, Mr. Bromberg learned the jewelry and watchmaking business most thoroughly and he is a recognized expert in this field of enterprise. After completing his apprenticeship he was employed for several years as a journeyman jeweler in his native land, and later he traveled extensively through Europe and the oriental countries, finding profitable employment at his trade. He was thus engaged in Switzerland and in the cities of Vienna and Amsterdam, and in 1883 he came to America. He followed his trade in New York city, Washington, St. Louis and other metropolitan centers, and in 1886 he came to Battle Creek, where he entered the employ of the firm of Galloup & Hollister. Later he was engaged for a time in independent business and he then went to Paris, France, to attend the exposition. In 1889 he returned to Battle Creek and laid the foundation for his present extensive business by opening a small jewelry store in the Nichols & Austin block. Careful and honorable dealings soon enabled him to build up a prosperous enterprise, and the same constantly expanded in scope, with the result that he found it expedient to secure larger quarters. He accordingly removed to 36½ West Main street, where he continued business until his removal to his present large and attractive quarters in the fine two-story brick block which he erected in 1910-11. This is one of the most attractive business structures in the central district of Battle Creek, and the same is located on Monument Square, opposite the post-office, with numbers from 88 to 94 East Main street. The establishment of Bromberg & Gregory occupies the corner store, which is metropolitan in all appointments, including large and admirably arranged display windows. The magnificent establishment, in which are handled diamonds, watches, jewelry of all kinds, silverware, etc., has been designated as the "home of jewelry" and as one in which popular prices prevail. The trade has become one of large volume, both in the wholesale and retail departments, and the high reputation of the concern constitutes its best commercial asset. The firm originated the diamond refunding-price system, and the same has been accorded distinctive appreciation by the public.

Mr. Bromberg became a naturalized citizen of the United States as soon as possible after his arrival in this country, and he is deeply appreciative of the land of his adoption, where he has found opportunity for the gaining of large and worthy success and where he has won a host of loyal friends. He is essentially liberal and progressive in his civic attitude and his political allegiance is given to the Republican party. He is a member of the board of trustees of the Battle Creek lodge of

Hosted by Google

Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks and also holds membership in the Knights of Pythias and the Athelstan Club. He was associated in the organization of the Country Club, but is not identified with the same at the present time. He finds his chief interests centered in his home, which is one of ideal associations, and there he is usually to be found when not engrossed in the affairs of business. He and his family hold membership in the Independent Congregational church and he has been one of its liberal supporters for a score of years. The attractive home of Mr. Bromberg is a fine property and is owned by him, the same being located at 136 Fremont street, at the corner of Henry street, and being a center of gracious hospitality.

On the 5th of March, 1889, Mr. Bromberg was united in marriage to Miss Etta A. Squire, who was born and reared in Battle Creek and who is a daughter of Daniel Squire, an old and honored citizen of Calhoun county. Her twin sister, Eva, is now the wife of Charles A. Broceus, manager of the Oppenheimer Cigar Company's establishment in Battle Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Bromberg have four children: Flora, who is the wife of C. B. Powers, of Battle Creek; Margaret, who is a member of the class of 1911 in Wells College, at Aurora, New York; and Henrietta and Clara, who remain at the parental home.

Louis J. Gregory, the business associate of Mr. Bromberg, learned the jeweler's trade under his direction nearly a quarter of a century ago and was admitted to partnership, as junior member of the firm of Bromberg & Gregory, on the 1st of July, 1911.

ARTHUR S. KIMBALL, M. D. The life of the city physician and surgeon in these modern days is one of unceasing activity. Modern methods and the high rate of speed with which civilization pursues its relentless way, makes demands upon the time and energy of the physician greater, perhaps, than upon men in any other profession. The extent to which specialization is pushed, the deep study required to keep abreast of the discoveries of the age and the everlasting call of the suffering public all combine to sap the vitality of the most rugged.

But as modern days are strenuous, so the modern man has something of power in his make-up which works best under pressure. Dr. Arthur S. Kimball, the well-known Battle Creek physician and surgeon, is a modern instance of a man well-equipped to handle the responsibilities of high medical positions. He is a native of New England, that cradle of so much of our national history, his birthplace being Cummington, Massachusetts, and the date of the event April 25, 1878. He is a son of Dr. Arthur H. Kimball, who died in this city August 6, 1894. He had removed to this city from Cummington some thirteen years prior to his death. The mother, whose maiden name was Marian Baker, survives and makes her home in this city, her residence being at the old homestead at 196 Maple street. She, likewise, was a native of the old Bay state, her life record having begun in the town of South Dennis. Dr. Kimball's only brother, Frank H., is deceased.

Dr. Kimball was a child five years of age when his parents removed to this city from Massachusetts. His preliminary education was acquired in the excellent public schools of Battle Creek, and he was graduated from their higher department with the class of 1896. He then entered Dartmouth College at Hanover, New Hampshire, and received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from that time-honored institution in 1900. Having in the meantime come to the conclusion to follow in the footsteps of his deceased father in the matter of choosing a life work, he matriculated in the medical department of the University of Michigan and in 1903 received his professional degree. He entered upon

Hosted by Google

his practice at this place and here has ever since remained, early receiving wide-spread recognition for his unusual attainments. He does a general practice, and also makes a specialty of the diseases of children. In evidence of the confidence in which he is held was his selection as health officer under Mayor Bailey. At the present time he is a member of the committee appointed to revise the city charter and in all matters his counsel has proved of the most enlightened order. In addition to his profession, Dr. Kimball has several interests of large scope and importance, being a stockholder in the American Steam Pump Company. He was formerly one of the directorate, but resigned this office upon going abroad in the year 1909.

Although Dr. Kimball's father was a staunch Democrat, the subject gives hand and heart to the men and measures of the "Grand Old Party." He is affiliated with the Athelstan Club and with all the organizations intended to advance and unify the profession and its members, namely: the Calhoun Medical Society of which he was for five years secretary, and the State and American Medical Societies.

Dr. Kimball established an independent household on October 20, 1903, his chosen lady being Minnie G. Osterbind, daughter of H. C. Osterbind and Mrs. Osterbind of Richmond, Virginia. In that southern city, Mrs. Kimball received her public school education and subsequently was a student at the Randolph-Macon College for Girls at Lynchburg, Virginia, from which she received her Bachelor of Arts degree. She afterward completed a two years course in the medical department of the University of Michigan, where she met Dr. Kimball, and at his solicitation abandoned her professional career. Their marriage was celebrated at Richmond at the home of Mrs. Kimball's parents. Mr. Osterbind is superintendent of the Tredegar Iron Works of that city. The union of the subject and his wife has been blessed with the birth of twin daughters, Virginia M. and Eleanor C., Battle Creek being their birthplace. Their delightful and hospitable household is situated at 245 Upton avenue while the Doctor's offices are at 310 Ward Building.

On April 14, 1912, two children, Arthur S. Jr., and Mary O., were born. In 1909 the Dr. went abroad and took special work in the Children's Hospital at London, Belfast and Edinburgh. In July, 1912, he was appointed councilor for the 3d district of the Michigan State Medical Society.

WALTER S. POWERS. As an active and successful attorney for the past thirty-five years, Mr. Walter S. Powers has had a varied and broad experience in his profession, and has long occupied a prominent place among the lawyers of southern Michigan. Since 1899 he has been identified with the citizenship of Battle Creek, his offices being in the Winslow block at 55 West Main street.

Mr. Powers was born in Genesee county, New York, January 14, 1849. His family history dates back into colonial New England and his forbears were highly respected and substantial citizens. His grandfather was John Powers, who married Eunice Squires, both being natives of Vermont, and had settled in western New York in the early years of the century. Eunice Squires had lived at Rochester when the site contained only three houses. John Powers spent practically all of his active career in farming in western New York. Late in life he came to Michigan on a visit and died in Barry county, this state. One of his sons, William, was a soldier in the war of 1812.

Another son of this New York farmer was John Richard Powers, the father of the Battle Creek lawyer. He was born in Bedford town-

Hosted by Google

ship, Cayuga county, New York, about twenty-five miles from Auburn, on November 28, 1818. He married Hannah Johnson. When he was eight years old his parents moved from Cayuga to Genesee county, and there he lived until he came west to Michigan. His early education was limited. For a time he attended the district schools, but most of his education he acquired in the home chimney corner by the light of the fire. This method of self instruction qualified him for teaching, an occupation he followed several terms, until his father's failing health made it necessary for him to take up the work of the home farm, where he remained until 1850. In the fall of that year, with his wife and three children, he set out for Michigan. Railroad communication had recently been completed between the east and the middle west. His journey was made by rail to Buffalo, thence by lake boats to Detroit, and thence by rail to Battle Creek. From here he drove to his destination in Barry county. His first homestead in that county consisted of one hundred and twenty acres, with a rude shanty, and with hardly any improvements to distinguish it from the original wilderness. His entire capital was one hundred dollars, with which he made a partial payment on the land, and by the time he had established his family here only ten dollars of the cash store was left. He paid this as part of the sixteen dollars' purchase price of a cow, and arranged to split rails at fifty cents a hundred to pay for the balance. For two seasons he obtained the necessities for his family by outside work for other settlers, and in the intervals of this period he was engaged in making a substantial cabin of side-logs, and the shingles he made by hand. After some years, filled with hard labor, this period of economic stress had passed, and he had a very productive and valuable home. In 1884, having traded this first farm for land upon which the Battle Creek suburb of Urbandale is now located, he removed to Bedford, having bought a farm of sixty acres in Bedford township, Calhoun county. The property about Urbandale he afterwards sold, with the exception of about twenty acres, to his youngest son. There were four sons and four daughters in his family, namely: Lydia A., a teacher in the Battle Creek schools; James M.; Walter S.; Agnes, wife of John Wing of Bedford township; Herbert A., city physician of Battle Creek; Eunice, now Mrs. Walter Stringham, of Battle Creek; Daniel J., of Bedford township; and Lida, who resides at the old home in this county.

Walter S. Powers was about one year old when the family moved west to Michigan. The old homestead on which he was born was in that part of Genesee county which later was set off as Wyoming county, New York. His boyhood was all spent on the farm in Barry county, and he obtained his early education from the local district schools. While a boy on the farm he one day resolved that he would become a lawyer, and the steady pursuit of this object has been the foundation of his successful career. At the age of twenty-two he became a country schoolmaster in Newago county, having gone up into the pine woods to find work in the lumbering region during the winter, where this opportunity for teaching was presented to him. For some time later he was a successful teacher in his home county, and afterward taught in the village schools of New London, Ohio. While there he began the study of law under the direction of his cousin, Rollin Powers, and was admitted to the bar. Not being satisfied with his equipment for the profession, he then entered the law department of the University of Michigan, where he was graduated with the class of 1877.

His first place of practice was Bellevue, in Eaton county. His brother James having graduated from the University just a year later

Hosted by Google

than himself, now came to Bellevue and succeeded the former in practice. Walter S. then removed to Nashville, Michigan, where he practiced for a period of about twenty years and had a large and representative clientage. Since coming to Battle Creek in 1899 he has also built up a profitable practice, and has a reputation for ability only equalled by the leaders in the profession of this county. He purchased the block in which his offices are located, and until recently when he sold the property it was known as the Powers block. He has dealt to a considerable extent in real estate. At the present time he is owner of the building at 60-64 East Main street, in which the sessions of the circuit court are held, Battle Creek being one of the two cities of Michigan, not county-seat towns, where the circuit court holds regular sessions. Some other city property is also owned by him.

Mr. Powers was married at Battle Creek on May 24, 1877. He has two children, both of whom were born in Nashville, this state. Blanche, the older, is a graduate of the Nashville high school and the Detroit Conservatory of Music. She was a successful teacher of music in the schools of Charlotte and in the Battle Creek schools, and since September, 1911, has been teaching in the grades at Grand Rapids. C. B. Powers, the son, has since 1908 been engaged in the seed and feed business at Battle Creek. He married Miss Flora Bromberg, daughter of H. A. Bromberg, and they are the parents of one daughter, Marion. On June 5, 1910, Mr. Walter S. Powers married Miss Alice Feighner of Battle Creek. Their home is at 132 North avenue.

Mr. Powers is a member of the Athelstan Club, is a Mason and a member of the local Knights of Pythias, having been transferred from his original lodge in Nashville. He became a Mason while living in New London, Ohio, and filled some of the chairs in that lodge. His membership is now in Battle Creek Lodge No. 12. He was a charter member of the Independent Order of Foresters at Nashville. He also belongs to the Calhoun County Bar Association. In politics he has been Republican for some years, but was formerly a Democrat. While at Nashville he was president of the village board two years, was president of the school board, and was also appointed by President Cleveland to the office of postmaster of that town.

HERBERT A. POWERS, M. D. Many of the men in the medical profession to-day are devoting themselves in a large measure to the prevention of disease as well as its cure. They are exerting all the force of their authority towards persuading people to use better methods and are spending their time and money in the endeavor to find more satisfactory methods of handling disease, and to make the general public realize that in their own hands lies the prevention of a great deal of disease and ill health. Among these men is Doctor Herbert A. Powers of Battle Creek, Michigan, who in his position as health officer of the city, has been able to accomplish considerable along these lines.

Dr. Herbert A. Powers was born in Assyria township, in Barry county, Michigan, on the 15th of March, 1855. His birthplace was a farm, and here he grew up, receiving his elementary education in the Assyria township district schools. When he was about twenty, having obtained as much knowledge as the district school teachers were able to give him, he became a teacher himself, and for several years taught in various sections of Barry county, Michigan. He saved his money with the intention of some time attending a medical school, and with this in mind he took up the study of medicine with Dr. A. L. Van Horn, of Dowling, Barry county. He worked under his direction

Hosted by Google

for about two years and then matriculated at the University of Michigan in the medical department, where he remained for a year. He then attended the Toledo Medical College where he was graduated with the class of 1888. He returned home, to Barry county, and there took up the general practice of medicine. He soon won success, and stayed among his old friends for twelve years. In 1900, however he moved to Battle Creek, where he has been able to build up a large general practice. In April, 1911, the stability with which he had builded was proved by his election as health officer of the city, a position which he was glad to accept since it gave him an opportunity to put into effect some reforms which he had long wished to see in use. He is now hoping to see the reform which is closest to his heart become effective. This is the substitution of sanitary paper milk bottles for the glass ones now in use. No one knows better than a doctor the uses to which these glass bottles are put, and he also knows that there is often a question as to whether they are thoroughly washed before being re-filled. The paper bottles can be manufactured by machinery, and after they have been used once they can not again be used, consequently the public would escape much dirt and filth as well as danger from infectious diseases. Dr. Powers hopes to secure his end with a little agitation, but the fight will be an uphill one, for he will not only have to fight the disinclination of the public to change its habits but the men who are interested in the manufacture of milk bottles.

In politics Dr. Powers is a Republican, and before coming to Battle Creek was township clerk continuously for a number of years, in Assyria township. He was also alderman for one year from the Second ward of this city, and was elected in April, 1910, for another term of two years. He resigned, however, to accept the office of health officer, considering himself more especially fitted for the latter position, and seeing here a greater opportunity for good. In the fight for nomination as alderman, Dr. Powers won the coveted honor from a man whom every one said could not be beaten. The people, however, stood firm in their faith that the doctor would give them the best service and that he stood for good government and clean methods, therefore they cast their votes for the man whom they trusted. Dr. Powers is also much interested in educational matters and was director of the school district in Assyria, when he resided there. He is an advocate of the most modern methods in education and did much to raise the standard of the schools in his district. He owns considerable real estate, consisting chiefly of twenty acres a half mile north of Urbandale, a suburb of the city, and of his home at 391 West Main street. Dr. Powers has his office at 59 West Main street with his brother W. S. Powers, the well known attorney, who is spoken of elsewhere in this volume.

Dr. Powers was made a Mason at Bellevue, and was transferred to the local chapter, being a member of Battle Creek Lodge No. 12. He is also a Modern Woodman of America and a member of the Eastern Star. In his own profession he is a member of the county and state medical societies, and of the American Medical Association. During 1910 he was president of the Calhoun County Medical Association.

Dr. Powers has been twice married. His first wife was Miss Martha A. Davis of Assyria, Michigan, and the marriage took place in that town. She died on the 22nd of December, 1905, leaving three children. Grace A. graduated from the Charlotte high school, and taught for a while in the schools of Battle Creek. She then entered the University of Michigan, where she is a member of the class of 1912, and will graduate from the literary course this year. Pansy O. was educated in the Charlotte and Battle Creek schools, and is now Mrs. Charles Marsh

Hosted by Google

of Battle Creek. Herbert A. received his elementary education in the Battle Creek schools, afterwards taking a course in the Michigan Business and Normal College of Battle Creek, from which he was graduated in 1908. He then went to St. Ignace, Michigan, where he entered the St. Ignace National Bank, being eighteen years old at the time. He is now assistant cashier of this bank. On the 30th of June, 1909, Dr. Powers was married to Mrs. Mary Tossell, of Battle Creek.

JAMES HENRY MUSTARD in the five years that he has been a member of the Calhoun county bar has acquired a position in the profession which older lawyers might envy, and is recognized today as one of the strongest attorneys of this vicinity. He began practice at Battle Creek in 1907, having arrived in this city on June 3d of that year. He first occupied offices with D. C. Salisbury over the Old National Bank, though they were not in partnership. Since September 1, 1909, he has occupied No. 212 in the Ward building.

Mr. Mustard was born at Seaforth, Ontario, February 25, 1880, and is of Scotch descent. His father, Donald Mustard, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and his mother, Catherine (MacDonald) Mustard, was a native of Glengarry, Ontario, her parents having come from Scotland. The father and mother, who were married at Seaforth, are now residents of Midland, Michigan. The father was engaged in farming for many years, but is now retired. He is one of the influential Republicans of his town and county. There were four sons and two daughters in the family, but the daughters and one of the sons died in infancy and childhood. James H. is the eldest; his brother John is now county school commissioner of Midland county; and his brother Russell is a student in the Midland high school.

Mr. Mustard began his advancement in public life at an early age. He was graduated from the Midland high school in the class of 1899 and then took up school work. On February 24, 1901, the day before his twenty-first birthday, he was nominated for the office of county school commissioner of Midland county. With three candidates in the field, he was successful, and after serving the two-year term was elected again to the office, which at that time had its term changed to four years. During the six years of his official career he was steadily preparing himself for his chosen profession. Every other week he spent at Ann Arbor in the law department of the university, where in 1906 he was graduated with the degree of LL. B. On the expiration of his term as school commissioner he at once located in Battle Creek.

In politics he is a stanch Republican. He is a member of St. Philip's Catholic church of Battle Creek, and is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and the Loyal Order of Moose, and is also a member of the Country Club. He belongs to the Calhoun County Bar Association. His residence is at 211 Fremont street. Mr. Mustard was married at Mount Pleasant, Michigan, June 30, 1908, to Miss Blanche Garvin. Mrs. Mustard, whose father was M. E. Garvin of Mount Pleasant, was born and reared there, and graduated from the high school in 1897 and from the Central State Normal School in 1899.

WALTER D. KLINE. A successful attorney of Battle Creek, Walter D. Kline is an energetic, upright young man, well versed in legal lore, and is rapidly winning for himself a fine reputation for professional skill and judgment. A son of George W. Kline, he was born, February 4, 1883, in Homer, Calhoun county, Michigan.

Born in Trumbull county, Ohio, George W. Kline has spent the larger part of his life in Michigan, being engaged in agricultural pur-

Hosted by Google

suits. His farm of one hundred and twenty acres, lying five miles south of Homer, is well improved, and under his management produces abundant harvests each year. His wife, whose maiden name was Ida A. James, was born in Allegan county, Michigan. They are the parents of two children, namely: Walter D., with whom this sketch is chiefly concerned; and Dora M., who was graduated from the Homer high school with the class of 1904, and three years later was graduated in music from Hillsdale College. She is an accomplished musician, and is now successfully employed in giving lessons on the piano, being quite a popular instructor.

Receiving his diploma at the Homer high school in 1899, Walter D. Kline completed the literary course at the Tri-State College, in Angola, Indiana, where he was graduated with the class of 1904. In 1907 he was graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan with the degree of LL. B., and subsequently the Tri-State College conferred upon him the degree of Ph. B. Beginning the practice of his profession in Oklahoma, Mr. Kline located at McAlester, where he met with good success, in addition to his general practice serving as assistant county attorney of Pittsburg county one year. Returning to Michigan in the spring of 1908, Mr. Kline has since been actively and prosperously engaged in the practice of law at Battle Creek, his office now being at No. 305 Post office building, and his residence at No. 130 College street. Politically Mr. Kline is a steadfast Republican, and fraternally he is a member of A. T. Metcalf Lodge, No. 419, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons; and Knights of Pythias.

Mr. Kline married, June 29, 1909, at Logansport, Indiana, Miss Mary Studebaker, a daughter of David and Priscilla (Burrous) Studebaker, of that city. Her father, a veteran of the Civil war, is now living retired from active business. Mrs. Kline was born and educated in Camden, Indiana, and after her graduation from the Camden High School, entered the Tri-State College, where she and Mr. Kline first met. Their only child, George Burrous Kline was born November 25, 1910.

LEOPOLD WERSTEIN. A man of integrity and worth, Leopold Werstein occupies an assured position among the substantial and respected citizens of Battle Creek, where, having by dint of energy, thrift and business ability, accumulated a competency, he is now living retired from active pursuits, enjoying a well-deserved leisure. A native of Germany, he was born, September 25, 1840, in Baden, and was there reared and educated.

His father, Francis Werstein, spent his entire life in Germany, passing away in 1850. He married Theresa Rice, who died in 1867. Five sons and one daughter were born of their union, and all of the boys served in the German Army. The daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Heinsman, of Germany, an aged woman of eighty-two years, and Leopold, the subject of this sketch, are the only members of the family now living, the latter being the only one that ever crossed the Atlantic.

After completing his early education in Baden, Leopold Werstein learned the shoemaker's trade, and at the age of nineteen he entered the army and served six years.

At the expiration of the service, he decided to find out for himself what advantages the new world had in store for a poor young man. Immigrating to America, he landed in New York City, August 6, 1865. He spent just a week in the city, and then proceeded to Marshall, Michigan, where he remained two weeks. Coming from there to Battle Creek, he has since made this place his home. For a number of years he followed his trade of a shoemaker, being first in the employ of Mr. Ray-

Hosted by Google

mond, and later working for Nicholas Lang. Later for about forty years he was a representative of the Pabst Brewing Company. Public-spirited and generous, Mr. Werstein has ever taken a genuine interest in local affairs, contributing liberally toward all beneficial enterprises, in his esteem nothing being too good for Battle Creek. Although he is now retired from business, he is serving as vice-president of the American Steam Pump Company, and as a director of the Central National Bank of Battle Creek.

Mr. Werstein is associated with various social and fraternal organizations, belonging to the Athelstan and Country Clubs, and being a member of the Free and Accepted Order of Masons, and is a Knights Templar of Saladin Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Grand Rapids, Michigan; of the Knights of Pythias; and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

At Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1866, Mr. Werstein was united in marriage with Miss Wilhelmina Weickgenant, whose death occurred four years later. He married second, at Jackson, Michigan, April 11, 1877, Miss Josephine Boos, who was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and educated in Marshall, Michigan. Mr. Werstein's oldest child, Leopold, died at the age of two and one-half years, and he has three children living, namely: Louis F., of Battle Creek; Frank J.; and Josephine Amelia, wife of Richard R. Hicks, of Battle Creek.

HOWARD W. CAVANAGH. Widely and favorably known in the legal circles of Calhoun county, Howard W. Cavanagh, of Battle Creek, holds high rank among the able and successful lawyers of his community, and as a public spirited citizen is ever ready to lend his aid and influence toward the establishment of enterprises designed to benefit his fellow-men. A son of James Cavanagh, he was born, June 12, 1867, in Alpena, Michigan, of excellent Irish ancestry. His paternal grandfather, Michael Cavanagh, a native of Ireland, immigrated to New York state in 1826, and subsequently married in this country.

James Cavanagh, was born in Jefferson county, New York, in 1833, and was there bred and educated. In 1860 he settled in Alpena, Michigan, and for several years carried on a thriving business as a lumberman, being associated with such men as the Burts, the Gilchrists, and others of note. In 1873 he moved with his family to Oakville, Canada, where he is still a resident, being now actively engaged in agricultural pursuits. Although he has lived so many years in Canada, he has never voted there, being a citizen of the United States still. While in Michigan he took much interest in politics, and for four years served as sheriff of Alpena county. He married Mary Williamson, who was born in Oakville, Canada, in 1835, their marriage taking place in Toronto, Canada, at the home of the bride's uncle. Her father, James Williamson, emigrated from Ireland to Ontario, Canada, in 1826, about the time that Michael Cavanagh, who was a Roman Catholic in religion, settled in New York, Mr. Williamson being a Protestant. Two sons and two daughters were born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. James Cavanagh. One child, a daughter, died in early life, and three children are living, as follows: Fred; Howard W.; and Mrs. Laura M. McKay, of Oakville, Ontario, Canada.

Fred Cavanagh, the eldest child of the parental household, was born at Alpena, Michigan, July 27, 1865. He was educated primarily in Canada, after his graduation from the Oakville High School teaching school for a year. In 1888 he was graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan with the degree of LL. B., and in the spring of the same year was admitted to the bar on his university

Hosted by Google

diploma. From January, 1909, until November, 1909, he practiced his profession at Battle Creek, but since that time has been located at Homer, Michigan.

Completing the course of study in the Oakville, Canada, High School, Howard W. Cavanagh subsequently attended the University of Toronto until 1885, when he entered the Law Department of the University of Michigan. In April, 1887, he was admitted to the Michigan bar, and in June, 1887, was graduated with the degree of LL. B., being then but nineteen years of age, and the youngest member of his class. The following winter he spent in Detroit, in the office of Hon. John W. McGrath, who was afterwards chief justice of the Supreme Court of Michigan.

On attaining his majority, Mr. Cavanagh returned to Alpena, his birthplace, and practiced law there for five years. While he was there, during a political campaign, a committee called at his office to ask him to accept a nomination as justice of the peace on the Republican ticket, but he happened to be out at the time. His uncle, a brother of his father, was there, and on being told of the committee's errand declined the nomination for Mr. Cavanagh, saying that being a Democrat Mr. Cavanagh could not run on a Republican ticket, but that he, himself, would become the party's nominee. Mr. Cavanagh worked hard throughout the campaign for his uncle, who secured the election, many who voted for him thinking they were casting their ballots for Mr. Cavanagh, whose father had formerly become widely known as sheriff of the county. Until after the election Mr. Cavanagh was entirely ignorant of the fact that he had ever been considered as a candidate for the office, and as he was then a young man, just beginning the practice of his profession, he thinks it probable that had he known it he might have consented to run for the office, which paid about three thousand dollars a year, and might have joined the Republican ranks instead of clinging to the Democratic party, but is now satisfied he did not.

On account of ill health, Mr. Cavanagh, in 1893, left Alpena, going back to Oakville, Canada, for rest and recreation, and while there studied Canadian law, and to some extent became interested in politics, helping to secure votes for others. Returning to Michigan in 1896, Mr. Cavanagh opened an office at Battle Creek, it being the office now occupied by Mr. Salisbury, for two years being in partnership with C. R. Mains, under the firm name of Mains & Cavanagh, but has since continued the practice alone, being now one of the leading attorneys of the city. He also opened an office at Homer, Calhoun county, in 1896, and made that place his home until November, 1909, when he removed with his family to Battle Creek, where he has since lived, his residence being at No. 35 Broad street.

Mr. Cavanagh was for thirteen years a resident of Homer, and was quite active in public affairs. He served as village trustee, or alderman, two years, and was afterwards candidate for president of the village, but was defeated at the polls; he was justice of peace for the township four years; village attorney five years; and for four years was secretary of the Homer Board of Education. In 1909 and 1910 he was prosecuting attorney for Calhoun county, in the latter year his brother Fred, who is an expert abstractor, having worked in the abstract office at Marshall for three years, being the assistant prosecuting attorney.

Socially Mr. Cavanagh belongs to the Athelstan Club, of Battle Creek, and to its Conversational Club, and is also vice-president of the Irish Historical Society for the state of Michigan. Fraternally Mr. Cavanagh is identified with many prominent organizations, being a member of Battle Creek Lodge, No. 12, Free and Accepted Order of Masons; of

Hosted by Google

Battle Creek Chapter, No. 19, Royal Arch Masons, of Zabud Council, No. 9, Royal and Select Masters, of Battle Creek, of Battle Creek Commandery, No. 33, Knights Templar, of Battle Creek, Michigan; of Homer Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, of Homer; of Moslem Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, of Detroit; of Homer Lodge, Knights of Pythias; of Homer Tent, Knights of the Modern Maccabees, of Homer Camp, Modern Woodmen of America; of Battle Creek Lodge, No. 131, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; and of the Loyal Order of Moose, of Battle Creek. Religiously he holds membership with the Episcopal Church of Alpena.

In Albion, Michigan, August 29, 1899, Mr. Cavanagh was united in marriage with Ula M. Cunningham, a daughter of James P. and Helen Cunningham, of Albion township, where her birth occurred. Her father is still living, but her mother has passed to the higher life. Mr. and Mrs. Cavanagh have one child, Helen M. Cavanagh, born July 1, 1904 at Homer, Michigan, a school girl.

CLARK E. WILDEY. Numbered among the prosperous agriculturists of Calhoun county is Clark E. Wildey, a well known and much respected man, noteworthy for his good citizenship and many excellent traits of character. A son of William Wildey, he was born in Jackson county, Michigan, November 1, 1866, and is of honored pioneer stock, his paternal grandfather, Gersham Wildey, having migrated from New York to Michigan at an early day.

William Wildey was born in New York state. He came to Michigan while it was yet a territory, in March, 1836, walking from Detroit to Jackson. He took up government land, and later purchased another tract of timbered land, and with heroic courage began the arduous task of reclaiming a farm from the woods. He there spent the greater part of his life as a tiller of the soil, although he later bought a farm in Calhoun county, and was there a resident until his death, in 1894. He was a Republican in politics, and a man of high character and standing. He married Harriet Packard, who was born in Jackson county, Michigan, and is now living in the vicinity of Lansing. Both she and her husband united with the Methodist Episcopal church in early days. He was a man of much business ability, and though he had but three hundred dollars in money when he made his advent in Michigan, he increased it many hundred fold, at his death leaving a good estate. Harriet Packard was a daughter of Enos Packard, who came from Vermont, his native state, to Michigan at an early period of its settlement, and died in Jackson county, on the farm which he improved from its original wildness.

The only child of his parents, Clark E. Wildey completed his early studies at the Spring Arbor Seminary, and on the home farm gained a practical experience in general agriculture. Locating in Calhoun county, Mr. Wildey bought, in 1891, his present farm of eighty acres, and has since devoted his attention to its improvement, each year adding to its value. One of the political leaders of his township, Mr. Wildey supports the principles of the Republican party, and for the past six years has rendered able service as supervisor. Fraternally he is a member of Lodge No. 333, Free and Accepted Order of Masons, at Burlington, in which he has filled all of the offices except that of master, at the present time being secretary.

Mr. Wildey married, in 1888, Avis Mathewson, a daughter of Ashal Mathewson, a native of New York, and for years a farmer, and a preacher in the Free Methodist Church. Mr. and Mrs. Wildey have one child, Gena C., who attended school in Albion two years, and is now at home.

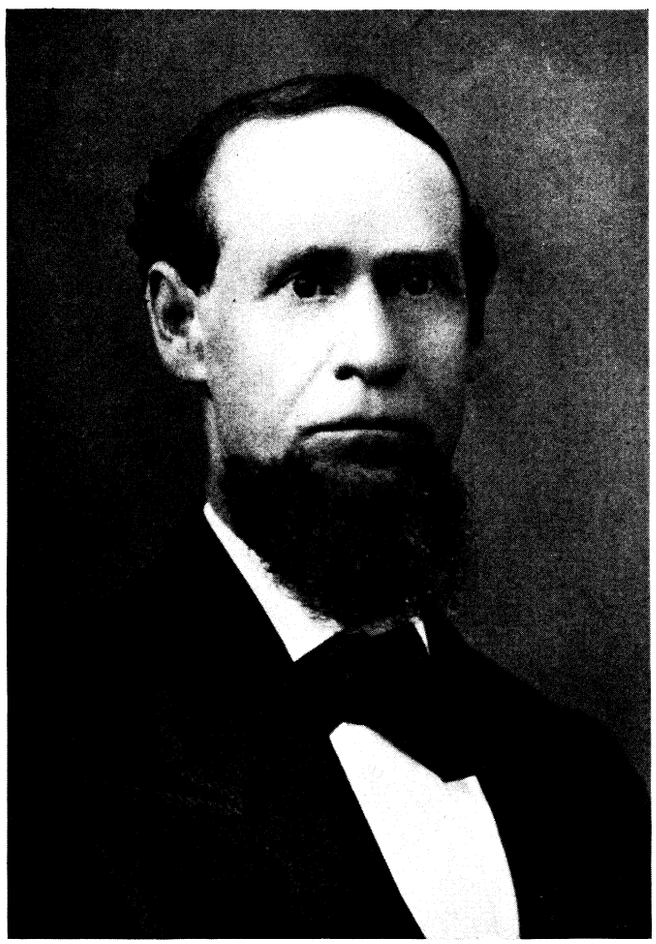
Hosted by Google

BERIAH P. GARDNER. Among those who were closely identified with the business interests of Battle Creek, Michigan, and are now gone to their long homes, none are more deserving of prominent mention within the leaves of this work than the late Beriah P. Gardner, who after spending more than a half a century in business in this city, passed away April 17, 1897. Mr. Gardner was born in the town of Pekin, Niagara county, New York, and was fifteen years of age when he was brought to Michigan by his parents. He received his education and was reared in Barry county, being brought up to agricultural pursuits, but as a young man learned the trade of wagon maker, which he followed throughout the remainder of his life. Coming to Battle Creek as a pioneer business man of the city, and starting in business in a small way, he so conducted his affairs as to build up an extensive and far-reaching business, and to gain a place for himself among the substantial men of Battle Creek. When he passed away, at the age of seventy-four years, a useful life was terminated, and a loving husband and true friend was called away. In political matters Mr. Gardner was a stalwart Republican and always supported that party's principles and candidates, but could never be induced to accept political preferment of any kind. Although not a regular member, he attended the Independent Congregational Church, contributing liberally towards its support as he did to all worthy movements. He had the welfare of his adopted city wholly at heart, and was always found in the front rank of any enterprise that promised to be of benefit to Battle Creek.

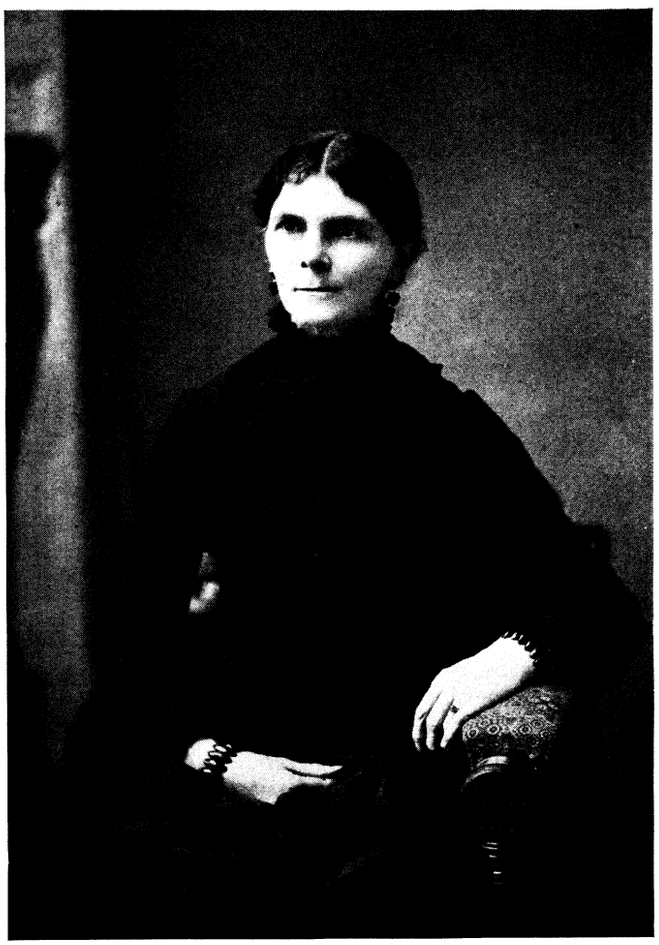
In 1844 Mr. Gardner was united in marriage with Miss Fidelia B. Harris, who was born in the city of Tenterton, County Kent, England, the second of a family of four children. She was three years of age when brought to America by her parents on a sailing vessel, and two years later her mother died. She was then placed in a boarding school by her father, whom she remembers as a man of the greatest kindness of heart, and who had been married again. He died years ago and is buried near Springport, Jackson county, Michigan. While Mr. Gardner was a gentleman of excellent character, possessing a genial and obliging disposition, and being beloved by everybody who had the good fortune to know him well, and respected by all who knew his life and record, Mrs. Gardner was a fit companion for him. She is a highly cultivated and well-balanced lady, who has much of the knowledge of the schools and much also of that more practical kind which comes from experience. Born May 14, 1824, she is now eighty-eight years old, but would easily pass for one a quarter of a century younger, so remarkable are her strength and vitality. Until five years ago she never wore glasses, and her sight is still so excellent that she can easily read and write without them, and attributes much of her good health to the fact that she has followed Dr. Kellogg's advice in regard to plain living and plenty of out-of-door exercise, and to the fact that she has not eaten meat for over twelve years. Possessed to the fullest degree of all of her faculties, she attends to all of her own business matters, while her many lovable characteristics have drawn around her a large circle of warm friends. Her comfortable home is situated at No. 145 Van Buren street, West. Mrs. Gardner built the finest home on Main Street, and the first house in Battle Creek with bay windows. She was a fine singer and both Mr. and Mrs. Gardner sang in the choir both here and in Albion. Mr. Gardner was a fine musician and was a member of the first band in Battle Creek, and also the first fire department.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gardner two sons and two daughters were born: Charlotte F., died at age of six years; Frances A., wife of George C. Morrow, a clothing merchant of Battle Creek, no children, both deceased,

Hosted by Google



BERIAH P. GARDNER



Tidelia B. Gardner.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

she died at the age of thirty-four; Frederick B., died at age of four years; Robert C., died at age of three months. Mrs. Gardner's only brother, William Harris, a wealthy farmer and stockman of Kansas died in 1907 at the age of seventy-five. Mrs. Gardner is a member of the Congregational church, and is one of the most cheerful givers to the poor and benevolent and Christian societies.

CHARLES F. BOCK. Those who were intimately acquainted with the movements which really promoted civic and material progress in Battle Creek during the last half century, and those who inquire carefully as to the prominent personalities in those movements, are aware of the great importance of the life and services of the late Charles F. Bock, the successful business man, the energetic but disinterested civic leader, the kindly and helpful factor in many of the organized undertakings and institutions which comprise the city of Battle Creek. Few men deserve to rank higher in the memories of their fellow citizens than Mr. Bock.

Charles F. Bock was born at Buffalo, New York, December 23d, 1836, and died at Battle Creek, November 16, 1903. He was the oldest in a family of ten children, of whom these still survive:—A. F. Bock, of Battle Creek; Mrs. Mary Mills, of Buffalo; and Emma, of Chicago.

At the age of eighteen Charles F. entered the large wholesale hardware house of Pratt & Company at Buffalo, and during the next seven years gained a thorough knowledge of this business. About 1860 he moved to Michigan, and in 1861 settled at Battle Creek, which was his home until his death. His employment for a time was in V. P. Collier's hardware house, which he left to become a partner in the firm of Arnold & Company, who for four years were among the hardware merchants of this city. He next became senior member of the firm of Bock & Peters, a prosperous partnership for fourteen years. In 1884, having sold his interests to his partners, he then formed the firm of Charles F. Bock & Son, a business which has been conducted with progressive success down to the present date, and throughout that time in the location at 18 West Main street. The title of the business was changed in 1909, after twenty-five years under the old name, to the Bock-Walker Company. During his active career the late Mr. Bock never ceased to give his energetic direction to this business, and he also possessed the faculty, amidst so many changing methods in commerce, of keeping his business arrangements up to date.

December 29, 1858, he married. Mrs. Bock is still living, her residence being at 85 Maple street. They were the parents of two children: Frank F., for nineteen years his father's partner (see sketch below); and Mrs. George G. Tanner, whose husband is a member of the wholesale metal and hardware house of Tanner & Company at Indianapolis. Mrs. Tanner was born at Adrian, Michigan, where her parents resided a short while before coming to Battle Creek, and she was graduated from the Battle Creek high school.

A lifelong Republican, though never concerned in practical politics or office seeking, Mr. Bock's official service to his community was represented by two terms in the city council from the Fourth ward. In Masonry he attained the Knights Templar degrees and was a member of the Shrine, and had held the various chairs in the local bodies. He was one of the presidents of the Athelstan Club, which for a number of years has been a strong civic and business as well as social organization. He also served for a time as president of the State Hardware Men's Association. During the closing years of his life he was stockholder and director in various companies and organizations: was a

Hosted by Google

director in the City Bank, was president of the Oak Hill Cemetery board, was one of the organizers of the Citizens Electric Light Company, and was a member of the building committee which erected the Post Theatre. Though not a soldier himself, he spent a great deal of money and time in efforts to secure the proper recognition of the services of those who fought in the rebellion. To him certainly as much as any other citizen is due the credit for the erection of the handsome Soldiers and Sailors' Monument in Battle Creek. His remarkable energy found many outlets besides his regular business, and afforded him occupation up to the last days of his life. The St. Thomas Episcopal church was one of the institutions to which he gave much service. For over forty years he was a vestryman, and was senior warden at the time of his death. His last activity outside his home was in attention to his church duties, and it rarely happened in the course of many years that he was absent from the church on Sundays.

In recalling these varied activities, the larger work of his career will need no further commentary to his old friends. In his case, the energy and efficiency which in early years were directed to private business in later life were not allowed to sink into disuse but were applied to those social endeavors which are not less useful than private enterprise in the wholesome development of a community. Idleness was never to him a phase of happiness, and for this reason he was a worker all his life, and never really retired. His presence and influence as a citizen were as beneficial to Battle Creek as years of official service, from lesser men would have been. A city's character is molded by the characters of its citizens, and his was one of the most effective in producing what is best in the modern civic life of Battle Creek. It was in recognition of this fact, as well as a beautiful tribute to his personality, that every place of business in the city was closed during the hour of his funeral, a mark of respect which has been unique in the history of Battle Creek.

Frank F. Bock, son of the late Charles F. Bock and Harriet Bock, was for nineteen years associated with his father in business, and both as a business man and a citizen has represented in his generation the same fine qualities and services which made his father's name so esteemed in this city.

He was born at Buffalo, New York, September 18, 1859, and has lived in Battle Creek since he was two years old. From the public schools of the city he went to Olivet College, and then returned, when still young, to begin his business career under the direction of his father. The store at 18 West Main street has been managed by the business skill of three generations, since Robert G. Bock, son of Frank F. and grandson of Charles F., is now the secretary and treasurer of the company. From the time Frank F. was taken into the business, the style of the firm was Charles F. Bock & Son, which was continued until 1909, since which time it has been the Bock-Walker Company. At that date Mr. Arthur Walker became vice president and general manager of the company. Mr. F. F. Bock, though president of the company, retired several years ago from any active part in its management.

In the general advancement of the community he has borne a prominent part. He was one of the six men who were the organizers of the Athelstan Club, which has ever since been a factor not only in social life but has contained in its membership much of the civic idealism and practical expression of the community's life. He is also a charter member and actively identified with the Country Club. To him more than any other individual was due the organization of the Battle Creek Busi-

Hosted by Google

ness Men's Association, which has since become known as the Battle Creek Industrial Association. He was its president at the time the Grand Trunk shops were located in this city, and led the local enterprise to secure that industrial boon. The location of a branch of the Quaker Oats manufactories, and of several smaller concerns, also received much encouragement and practical aid from him. At the present time he is secretary and general manager, and the third largest stockholder, in the Post Land Company. In politics, while a Republican in national affairs, he belongs in that new alignment of political activity that insists on principles and efficiency of the individual candidates rather than on party labels. Fraternally he affiliates with the A. T. Metcalf Lodge No. 419, A. F. & A. M., and with the Elks lodge of this city.

The Bock residence is in Springfield Place, at 119 Twenty-second street. Springfield Place is another monument to Mr. Bock's activity. He saw the future possibilities of the district and planned its streets and buildings. September 17, 1883, Mr. Bock married Miss Ina A. Gregory, daughter of Myron and Emily (Shepard) Gregory, of Battle Creek. Mrs. Bock was born and educated in Battle Creek, where her mother still resides, her father being deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Bock are the parents of four children: Mrs. Joseph L. Hall, of Indianapolis; Robert G., mentioned above; Mrs. Harry Mott and Miss Frances. Robert is a graduate of the high school. Mrs. Mott finished at St. Mary's Academy in South Bend, and Frances is now in high school.

CHARLES S. ANDREWS. A self-made man in every sense implied by the term, Charles S. Andrews has accomplished a satisfactory work both as a farmer and a merchant, and having accumulated a fair share of this world's goods is now living retired from active pursuits, enjoying the pleasures of a well-earned leisure. A native of Michigan, he was born, September 28, 1842, in Kent county of pioneer stock.

His father, Sylvester Andrews, was born, in 1798, in New Jersey, where his parents were life long residents. Well educated and a fine musician, he came to Michigan soon after it became a state, and engaged in professional work, being a school teacher, and a teacher of music, until his death, while he was yet in manhood's prime, in 1843, before his son Charles was a year old, and before he had accumulated any means. His widow, whose maiden name was Mary Guyant, was born in Connecticut in 1801, and came to Michigan with her parents, who located in Jackson county, and there spent their remaining days. She married a second husband and continued to live in Michigan until her death. In those early days the country roundabout was in its virgin wildness, the Indians claiming the forests as their happy hunting grounds, and making frequent calls upon the new settlers while Mr. Andrews was a boy, and he remembers hearing his mother tell that one day when he was a babe in the cradle the Indians came into the house and his sister a little older than himself being too small to carry him pulled him from the cradle and dragged him out to where his mother was.

Availing himself of the limited educational advantages of his day, Charles S. Andrews attended the district schools during his youthful days, obtaining a practical knowledge of the common branches of study. In 1861 he enlisted as a soldier in Company "H," Merril's Horse, afterwards the Second Missouri Cavalry, and was with his command in numerous engagements, including those at Wilson's Creek, Memphis, Moore's Mill, Kirksville, Crampton Ferry, Ashley Bayou, Bear Skin Lake, Princeton, Camden, Franklin and at other places of minor importance, being with his command all of the time with the exception

Hosted by Google

of six months, when he was ill at Saint John's Hospital, Little Rock. At the end of three years he was honorably discharged from the service.

On returning from the seat of war, Mr. Andrews was for several years engineer in a saw mill, but finally bought a small farm, and engaged in tilling the soil for awhile. Subsequently opening a store in Sonoma, Michigan, he was there engaged in general mercantile business for seventeen years, building up a substantial trade, and making money. Disposing of his stock in 1902, Mr. Andrews bought forty acres of land near Battle Creek, and is now living there retired, taking life easy.

Mr. Andrews married on March 3, 1875, Helen Owen, a daughter of Vri Owen, who came from New York to Michigan, and was here successfully employed in farming until his death. Mrs. Andrews is a most charming woman, and is a valued member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

An active member of the Republican party, Mr. Andrews was township supervisor for nine years, during the last year serving as chairman of the board.

FRANK COOPER, a well known farmer of Marengo township, was born on what is known as the Church farm, in this township, Calhoun county, on February 16, 1859, and is the last and youngest of the four children born to his parents, John and Mary (Buckley) Cooper, natives of Ireland. The subject was educated in the district school near his boyhood home, and as soon as he left school began farming in association with his father. He remained on the home farm so engaged until 1893, when he decided to establish a home of his own, and he accordingly purchased the farm upon which he now lives. With the sole exception of two years which he spent in Albion, Mr. Cooper has always lived in Marengo township.

On June 22nd, 1893, Mr. Cooper was united in marriage with Miss Mary Boughton, daughter of Charles and Emily (Merritt) Boughton, both of whom are still living at the advanced age of seventy-seven and seventy-three years, respectively. Mr. Boughton is one of the oldest settlers in Calhoun county, having come to the district when he was but four years old in company with his parents, and settling with them in Marengo township, and he has always resided near to the home of his boyhood.

ARTHUR B. WILLIAMS. During the last twenty years the bar of Calhoun county has contained no abler or more successful trial lawyer than Arthur B. Williams, now acting as general counsel for the Postum Cereal Company Ltd., and Mr. C. W. Post. Previous to accepting his present duties, which have caused his virtual retirement from general practice, he was retained on one side or other in nearly every important case tried in the courts of this county during the last ten or fifteen years. His ability in the law and his high standing in the profession and as a citizen give him rank as one of the leaders in the modern activities and life of this county.

Mr. Williams was born at Ashland, Ashland county, Ohio, January 27, 1872. His parents, are now living retired at Charlotte, Michigan. His father, likewise a native of Ashland, was of Scotch-Irish stock on the paternal side and Pennsylvania German on the maternal side, the family having long been identified with the state of Pennsylvania. The father, after obtaining his early education in Ohio, was engaged in farming there until about 1877, since which time he has been a resident of Charlotte, this state.

As the oldest of three children who reached mature years, Arthur

Hosted by Google

B. Williams attended the country schools of Eaton county, Michigan, up to the time he was fourteen, and then entered Olivet College, which is honored as his alma mater and of which institution he is now a trustee. Both his academic and collegiate studies were pursued there, ending with his graduation as bachelor of letters in 1892. In college he was an active member and president of the Adelphic Society. During his career at Olivet he had already begun the study of law. His bar examination was successfully passed at Detroit in 1893.

Early in the next year he located at Battle Creek, where his talent and energy and initial success quickly won him a very liberal patronage so that in a few years he was known as one of the busiest lawyers of the city. From a general practice at the beginning he confined himself more and more to corporation and commercial law. As a pleader before judge or jury, he has few equals in this part of the state. His power as an impressive speaker has reinforced his long-continued habit of earnest and thorough study, so that in any case that he undertakes he is prepared for all its issues and a powerful opponent in every phase of the trial. His law library now is one of the best selected and largest in Battle Creek. Mr. Williams has lived at Battle Creek during his entire professional career. During his practice he has been the senior partner in several law firms. Associated with him during various periods have been Andrew W. Lockton (now deceased), Ira A. Beck and Edwin C. Lewis. Mr. Lewis was associated in the firm, under the name of Williams & Lewis for several years previous to April, 1911, at which date Mr. Williams retired from active practice to accept the responsible place of general attorney for the great cereal manufacturing firm of Battle Creek.

On January 12, 1897, Mr. Williams was married to Miss Sue M. Wilson. John T. Wilson, her father, was well known in financial affairs at Charlotte, where he resided many years before his death. Her mother is still living in Charlotte. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Williams is at 231 Maple street.

He is a director of the Old National Bank of Battle Creek and affiliates with Battle Creek Lodge No. 12, A. F. & A. M., and is also a Knights Templar, and a member of the Knights of Pythias B. P. O. E., and I. O. F. For two years he was president of the Athelstan Club, and was president at the time the elegant club quarters were arranged for in the Post building. He is a member of the Country Club, and of the Independent Congregational church. His service as a citizen and lawyer has been helpful to the charter revision commission of Battle Creek, of which he is a member. During the twenty years since he left college Mr. Williams has gained more than ordinary distinction and success.

MARK MCCAMLY. Probably there is no better known family in Calhoun county than that of McCamly, nor is there one whose representatives have filled positions of greater trust or importance or have rendered greater service to the community. One of the highly esteemed citizens of this name, and one who is widely known throughout this section, is Mark McCamly, one of the oldest living native-born citizen of Calhoun county, now living a retired life in the city of Battle Creek. He was born in Marshall, Michigan, June 2, 1832, the third white child born in the county, a son of Judge Sands and Eliza M. (Coleman) McCamly.

Sands McCamly was born in Orange county, New York, October 16, 1793, his parents being David and Phoebe (Sands) McCamly, who emigrated to Orange county, New York, from Ireland, the family becom-

Hosted by Google

ing prominent agriculturists. In June, 1831, Sands McCamly emigrated from Cayuga county, New York, to Michigan, and endeavored to secure the present site of the city of Battle Creek, on account of its general eligibility and because of the presence of water power much to his liking. Failing, however, to secure this tract of land, he moved to Nottawa prairie, where he and his family lived for about a year, and in the summer of 1832 settled in Marshall, Michigan, where he resided until November, 1835, at that time locating in Battle Creek. In February, 1834, he bought an undivided half of the Garnsey purchase from a Mr. Sackett, who had previously entered it from the government, General Convis having control of the other half, it being agreed between the two that Judge McCamly should have full possession of the water power if he would improve it. Later he bought the whole original tract here and undertook its development, but subsequently sold a part to Jonathan Hart and Abraham and Isaac Merritt, who were pioneers, and to other actual settlers. He was the first postmaster of Battle Creek, and on the admission of Michigan into the Union as a State, was elected from his district as a State senator. He possessed a strong, clear intellect and sound judgment, was a good judge of men and things, and was inclined to view the sunny side of everything. His death occurred April 30, 1864. On November 8, 1823, he was married in Orange county, New York, to Miss Eliza M. Coleman, who was born there November 5, 1805, and she died in Battle Creek in 1859. Merritt Coleman came to Battle Creek at an early day and died in this city aged ninety-three years. Judge and Mrs. McCamly were widely known for their charity and kindness, and their names are still affectionately mentioned here, although they passed away many years ago. They had three daughters and two sons, Mark being the only survivor. The old homestead is now the Nichols Memorial Hospital.

Mark McCamly was educated in the public schools, and reared to the vocation of an agriculturist, which he has followed throughout his life, although he now lives retired. He owns one and one-fifth acres where his home is now located, next to the Nichols Memorial Hospital, on West Main street. He is a stockholder in the Merchants Savings Bank. On September 29, 1856, Mr. McCamly was married on the old farm to Miss Celina Whitmore, who was born in Vermont, daughter of Giddings and Susan G. (Houstain) Whitmore, of Fredonia township, who were early settlers there, coming from Vermont and New Hampshire in 1832, when Mrs. McCamly was one year old. They died in Battle Creek after living with Mr. and Mrs. McCamly for over thirty years. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. McCamly: Annie, who resides with her parents; Mrs. Harry Leon, of Decatur, Illinois; Mary, the wife of Dr. L. C. Smith, a well known dental practitioner of Bay City, Michigan; and Harry C., of Battle Creek, timekeeper for the Postum Cereal Company, Limited. All were born in Battle Creek and educated there.

Mr. McCamly has seen marvelous changes take place during his long residence here, and is an interesting conversationalist, with a stock of anecdotes and reminiscences of the early days. He well remembers walking every step of the way from the Missouri river to California, when a lad a little past seventeen years of age, but with the exception of that trip has spent practically all his life in Battle Creek, where he is regarded as one of his city's most highly esteemed citizens.

Le Vant D. Hobbs comes of one of the pioneer families of Michigan. His father Alfred D. Hobbs was born in Brookport, New York, on April 1, 1828, and moved to La Salle county, Illinois in 1832. He

Hosted by Google

was one of the early pioneers and helped his father clear the land on which they located. He remained on the home place until 1850, when with some of the neighboring youths he got the California gold fever. They prepared a raft and made their way down the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers until they reached St. Louis, where they bought a full equipment and struck out across the plains. So severe were the hardships encountered that during the half-year required to reach the coast, several of the party succumbed, but the rest pressed bravely onward. After nine years on the coast Mr. Hobbs returned home, desiring to enlist for the Civil war, but conditions at home were such that he could not be spared and he was reluctantly compelled to relinquish his plan. In 1862 he married Eugenia Bernard, who was a worthy, affectionate and conscientious helpmate.

There were eight children in their family, the two oldest dying about the time they attained their majority. Henry G. who was born in 1863, died at the age of twenty, and John A. who was born in 1865, passed away when twenty-five. Doctor Edward J. Hobbs now resides in Galesburg, Michigan, and has a fine practice. He was born in 1868. The next child was Nora May, who is now Mrs. Wirt C. Henry, of Battle Creek. In succession came L. D. Hobbs and Byron Hobbs, who are now partners in the grocery business. Ernest C. resides in Birmingham, Alabama. Mable is now Mrs. Dwight C. Fuller of Cullaman, Alabama. All of the children were born in La Salle, Illinois, and received their education in Battle Creek, John, Edward and Nora attending the old Battle Creek College. Byron is a graduate of the No. One School of Battle Creek, and L. D. Hobbs completed the High School with the exception of one year.

The parents were great believers in education and gave their children all the advantages at their command. They remained on the farm until 1889 when they moved to Battle Creek, where Mr. Hobbs, who had been an endless toiler, continued active in a number of lines. Feeling the weight of years coming upon him he decided in the fall of 1901 to remove to the southland, where he could escape the severity of the northern winters. He selected Cullaman, Alabama, and removed there with his wife, his daughter Mabel, and also his son Ernest, and family. In January, 1912, it was thought best to bring the old folks back to Battle Creek as Mr. Hobbs had shown such a material improvement. He stood the trip well, but began to fail a week after his return and soon lapsed into unconsciousness, passing away at midnight, Tuesday, February 21, 1912, at the age of 83 years, 10 months and 20 days. Mr. Hobbs and the members of his family were of the Adventist faith, which noble precepts soothed and cheered his declining days. He was sincerely mourned by all.

Le Vant D. Hobbs was born in La Salle, La Salle county, Illinois, December 5, 1872. The life of his father has been commented upon. His mother was Eugenia Bernard and she now divides her time between the children in Battle Creek and those in Alabama. L. D. Hobbs went from the school-room directly into business for himself and has never worked for anyone else. He and his brother Byron decided to embark in the grocery business, although neither one of them knew a single thing about it. They had plenty of enthusiasm however, and signalized their independence by opening a store at 231 West Main street, July 4, 1897. The firm was known as Hobbs Brothers, and the partnership lasted until the fall of 1898, when Byron went to Chicago, and L. L. Swank, father-in-law of Mr. Hobbs bought out Byron's interest. The firm of Swank & Hobbs continued for some years. Then Mr. Hobbs bought out his partner and continued alone

Hosted by Google

until 1895 when he sold out to Satterlee & Son. He then took charge of the retail store of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, located on North Washington Avenue, also having charge of the booths in the Sanitarium proper. This did not satisfy Mr. Hobbs after having been in business for himself so long, and he resigned the position at the expiration of his year's contract, forming a partnership with L. H. Weldin, under the name of Weldin & Hobbs. They dealt in general merchandise at 245-247 and 249 West Main street. The partnership continued until 1907 when it was dissolved and Mr. Hobbs took over the grocery end of the business and conducted it alone. In 1908 he and his brother Byron got together again and formed their second partnership, which has endured ever since, the firm name being Hobbs Bros.

Mr. Hobbs is a Republican and was alderman from the Third Ward for two terms in succession, a total of four years, two of them being under Mayor C. C. Green and two under Mayor John Bailey. Mr. Hobbs was chairman of the Civic Improvement Association, and also Chairman of the Park Committee. The Community Club Park was one of his ideas when in the Council and he was further responsible for the putting out of shrubs of various kinds in the parks. He belongs to the Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen, the Tribe of Ben Hur, and the Industrial Association.

On September 7, 1900, Le Vant D. Hobbs was married to Miss Bertha D. Swank, daughter of L. L. and Jennie (Null) Swank, of Battle Creek. His wife was born in Belleville, Ohio, and educated at Delaware, Ohio, graduating from the Delaware High School in the class of 1888. Her parents reside at 388 Champion street, Battle Creek, and Mr. Swank conducts a grocery store at the corner of Lincoln and Aldrich Street. Mr. Hobbs resides at 199 Manchester Street and the store at 245 W. Main street.

His public and private life have been such as to command the respect and esteem of everyone, and no one is held in higher regard.

NILES BRYANT. An art, science and language—thus has music been called by one of the masters. To some degree musical sounds affect every race and condition of people, and it has even been demonstrated that poor, distraught minds may be awakened and wild emotions be controlled by musical compositions when every other influence has failed to arouse interest. Perhaps no record has ever been found of the first musical instrument, so far back in the buried ages must the historian search, but one may be sure that even the fabled pipes of Pan had to be properly attuned in order to render the harmonies which entranced the Arcadian nymphs.

Probably at no time in the world's history, has musical taste been so highly cultured or musical perfection so demanded as at the present day, when musical instruments are considered almost necessities in every home. In the front rank of choice, stands the piano, that incomparable merchanism that seems so perfect that improvement does not appear to be possible, but that will never be supplanted. A piano, well tuned, may be a constant joy to musician and music lover, but a piano capable of producing only discords or dissonant chords must be a source of irritation and keen disappointment and will never be tolerated by one who understands and values true musical vibrations. Hence, far back arose the acknowledged necessity for the services of an experienced piano tuner, one who must have trained and dextrous fingers as well as quick and responsive ear. In this profession, as in others, there undoubtedly is a right and a wrong way, or, to put it as perhaps would Niles Bryant, president and founder of the Niles Bryant School

Hosted by Google

of Piano Tuning, at Battle Creek, Michigan, a way and a still better way and his army of successful graduate students will endorse his better way.

Niles Bryant is a well known figure in the business world of Battle Creek. He was born in Porter township, Van Buren county, Michigan, August 15, 1868, and is a son of John R. and Harriet A. (Smith) Bryant. Both parents were born in New York and accompanied their parents to Van Buren county, Michigan, when children, attended school together in Porter township and subsequently were married there and resided on their farm until 1876, when they moved to Battle Creek. Early in the Civil war, John R. Bryant enlisted in the Federal Army, at Lawton, Michigan, becoming a member of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry, in which he served for three years. Afterward he became a passenger engineer on the Chicago & Grand Trunk Railroad and continued in railroad life for about twenty-five years. His death occurred at his home in Battle Creek, March 24, 1895, his age being fifty-three years. He was well known all over the state and possessed social qualities that endeared him to a wide circle. He was a Knight Templar Mason, belonging to Battle Creek Lodge No. 12, F. & A. M. and Commandery No. 33, and was also identified with the Odd Fellows at Battle Creek. He was one of the charter members of the Eastern Star at Battle Creek and this lodge bears his name. His widow survived until April 19, 1909, and her burial was conducted by Bryant Chapter of the Eastern Star, of which she also was a charter member. John R. Bryant and wife were members of St. Thomas Episcopal Church at Battle Creek. Two sons and one daughter were born to them: Niles; George M., who is a resident of Cincinnati; and Edith, who died when about four years of age.

Niles Bryant attended the public schools of Battle Creek and the old Battle Creek College, securing thereby excellent educational training in a general line, but Nature had bestowed musical gifts on him and very soon his natural bent became apparent. At Battle Creek he was under instruction, from Prof. Edwin Barnes for two years and from Prof. Cobb for five years more and then taught music for some two years. All this time he was quietly studying out for himself a perfect, tuning method, and learned the art of tuning with Leo Bettendorf, of Jackson, Michigan, going then to Detroit, Michigan, where he remained for one year with the firm of Miller & Thompson, as salesman and piano tuner. His mother's home was yet at Battle Creek and he returned then to this city and employed the following year with his music classes. There has always been, in Mr. Bryant's composition, a very practical strain running along with what might be termed the emotional one as represented by his musical talent, and about this time he decided to enter a piano factory and for himself learn every detail of the manufacture of these instruments with which his life seemed so naturally connected, and thus became a factory workman with the Smith & Barnes Piano Company, of Chicago, Illinois. For five years Mr. Bryant remained with that well known music firm, in the days when each workman made his own piano, hence there is nothing in the construction of one of these instruments that is not familiar to Mr. Bryant. He was advanced through every department of the Smith-Barnes Company, and became inspector for the house, where he was held responsible for the mechanical construction, finish and tone of every piano that was sent out. What better preparation could he have had for his future work?

For several years afterward, having been thoroughly drilled while with the above company in the art of tuning, voicing, regulating and repairing pianos by Superintendent C. R. Ellias, he taught music and

Hosted by Google

followed piano tuning at Battle Creek, and while attending to his professional duties was impressed with a fact that had much to do with the founding of his unique school of instruction. As stated in the beginning of this brief biography pianos are being purchased in rapidly increasing numbers all over the country, and of a necessity, in order that they may be equal to the demands made upon them, there must be well equipped doctors to attend to their ailments, especially to keep up their *tone*. It was Professor Bryant's own idea that here was the path which might be opened up before ambitious and industrious men who were seeking foothold among the over-crowded professions. The story of how he made a practical application of his idea and developed it into the Niles Bryant School of Piano Tuning, is more than interesting, it is absorbing, but present space permits only the outlines. In 1898, starting with one pupil, by September, 1906, the school was incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan, owned one of the most prominent business sites in the city of Battle Creek, and had established its reputation for thoroughness of instruction and at the present time of writing has its satisfied students in almost every country on the globe.

Mr. Bryant is not only a musician, a piano tuner along scientific lines, and a builder of a great educational enterprise, but he is also an inventor and his own words may be quoted concerning how he discovered the principles which resulted in the construction of the Tune-a-Phone, the perfect instrument that simplifies the teaching of the art of tuning. Mr. Bryant says:

"About this time I had attained a series of most gratifying results from certain researches in acoustics, which I had long been prosecuting with the fixed purpose of getting at the ultimate foundation of certain obscure and little understood phenomena underlying the theory of temperaments and temperament building. Through long and patient application and frequent employment of special apparatus for the study of acoustic principles, much of which was of exceeding delicacy and had cost me a small fortune to design and perfect, results had at last been realized that had suggested to me the feasability of the Tune-a-Phone, and in an instant the field of my future work flashed upon me. The Tune-a-Phone made correspondence instruction in piano tuning practical."

The Niles Bryant School of Piano Tuning not only imparts skill to its students but it does more, it teaches them how to market that skill which Mr. Bryant justly regards as an exceedingly important feature. Through the efforts of this school there is no doubt but that hundreds have been put on the path whereby at least a comfortable competency has been secured. In addition to the Tune-a-Phone, Mr. Bryant has invented other musical tools and assistants and one of these is a disc for a phonograph for tuning pianos. He is interested in other concerns, being a director of the Roman Cut Stone Company of Battle Creek, and of additional enterprises, but his business interests have mainly been in the line above indicated. He introduced the first piano-player at Battle Creek and gave the first exhibition here, in the Annex Block on South Jefferson street.

In politics, Mr. Bryant is a Republican and was a member of the Board of Public Works under Mayor George Barnes for two years and then resigned. He sold the City Hall site to the city for the sum of thirty thousand dollars, on which the new City Hall of Battle Creek is to be erected in 1912, the location being opposite the Post Office. There was a three year's warfare over this transaction but Mr. Bryant secured justice.

Hosted by Google

On August 27, 1892, Mr. Bryant was married to Miss Jennie Gorman, who was born, reared and educated at Toronto, Canada. They have two sons: Niles, Jr., who was born at Chicago, Illinois; and James Gorman, who was born at Toronto. Both sons are athletes and they are also bright high school pupils. Mr. Bryant and family enjoy a spacious residence at No. 75 Garrison avenue, Battle Creek, and a delightful summer home at Gull Lake, where they have twenty-five acres, eighteen of which is still in timber. Mr. Bryant is a member of Battle Creek Lodge No. 12, F. & A. M., and belongs to Saladin Shrine at Grand Rapids, Michigan; belongs also to the Elks at Battle Creek, and is a member of the Athelstan and Country Clubs.

FRED WELLS has been a resident of Battle Creek since his boyhood days and has here risen to a secure position as one of the representative business men of the city, as well as one who has stood exemplar of the utmost civic loyalty and public spirit. He was for a number of years actively identified with banking interests in Battle Creek, having initiated his efforts in the capacity of messenger boy and having eventually risen to executive position of responsibility and trust. He is at the present time president of the Rathbun & Kraft Lumber & Coal Company, one of the important industrial concerns of the metropolis of Calhoun county, and one to which more specific reference is made on other pages of this work,—in the sketches dedicated to Stephen J. Rathbun and Arthur J. Kraft, who are respectively treasurer and secretary of the company, of which the remaining executive officer is Edward Henning, who is vice-president.

Fred Wells claims the old Empire state of the Union as the place of his nativity and is a scion of honored pioneer families of Onondaga county that state, where both his father and mother were born and reared and where their marriage was solemnized. He himself was born in the town of Otisco, that county, on the 29th of June, 1864, and is a son of Charles and Esther (Cummings) Wells. Charles Wells was engaged in the hotel business during the greater part of his active career but was an invalid during the last twenty years of his life. He came with his family to Battle Creek in 1878, and here he lived virtually retired from active business until his death. He was a Republican in politics and was a man of ability and sterling character,—one who ever commanded secure place in the confidence and esteem of those who knew him. His widow, now venerable in years, still resides in Battle Creek and maintains her home at 49 Upton avenue.

Fred Wells, the only child in the family, gained his rudimentary education in the schools of his native state and was a lad of about fourteen years at the time of the family removal to Battle Creek, where he continued his studies in the public schools until he had completed the curriculum of the high school, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1883.

Soon after leaving school Mr. Wells assumed the position of messenger in the Old National Bank of Battle Creek, and by effective and faithful service he won promotion to the position of bookkeeper in this institution, with which he continued to be identified for a period of four years. He then became assistant cashier of the Merchants' Saving Bank, and he continued as one of the valued and popular office executives of this institution for twelve years, at the expiration of which he resigned, to devote his attention to other interests. In December, 1900, he became treasurer of the Rathbun & Kraft Lumber Company, Limited, and he retained this incumbency until the 4th of April, 1906, when the concern was reorganized and reincorporated, without the prior liability

Hosted by Google

limitation, under the present title of the Rathbun & Kraft Lumber & Coal Company. He is now president of this substantial and progressive concern and gives to its administrative affairs the greater part of his time and attention. He is a stockholder of the Hygienic Food Company, Maple Flake Mills, of Battle Creek and is secretary of its board of directors, and he is also a stockholder in the Old National Bank.

Mr. Wells has shown a lively interest in all that has tended to foster the civic and material progress of his home city, is a stanch Republican in his political allegiance. In 1901 Mr. Wells was appointed a member of the city board of education, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge Joel Hopkins, and the most effective voucher for the effectiveness of his services and the popular estimate placed upon the same is that he has since been elected as his own successor on three different occasions, his present term expiring in 1913. He is now secretary of the board and is also treasurer of the Battle Creek Chautauqua Association. He is a charter member and was one of the incorporators of the Athelstan Club, and served as treasurer of the same during the first seven years of its existence. He has an attractive home at 53 Upton avenue and the same is a center of much social activity of representative order.

On the 25th of June, 1885, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Wells to Miss Ora M. Flagg, who was born and reared in Battle Creek and who was graduated in the high school as a member of the same class as her husband. She is a daughter of Eli W. Flagg, long numbered among the influential business men of this city. Mr. and Mrs. Wells have two children,—Ruth M. and Dean J.

James J. Larmour. A Battle Creek man who is doubtless more closely associated with the government service, and more widely known in that service, than any other in this state, as well as other states, is James J. Larmour, who also enjoys the distinction of having lived here from early childhood, more than a half-century ago. His parents, James J. and Jane (Winant) Larmour, were natives of New York and New Jersey, the latter having been born at Hackensack, where their marriage took place. The original stock being that of the Huguenot French and the Dutch of the Netherlands. James J. Larmour, the subject of this sketch was born in New York City, on October 4, 1852. When a child of four years, the family came to Battle Creek, where the father pursued his vocation, which was that of architecture. It was he who built the first brick Methodist church, where the present one stands, and also the first public hall, which was known as Stuart's Hall, and which building is now occupied by the Bock-Walker Hardware Company. Col. Stuart occupied the first two floors with his store originally, the hall was on the third floor, and was for many years the only public hall in the city. The elder Mr. Larmour's first residence was built on the lot where the residence of E. C. Nichols now stands, corner of Maple and Fremont streets. The lot with others, was taken from a cultivated field at that time. He died here in 1886. His first wife had died in 1861 and he had subsequently married Miss Susan Clark, of Battle Creek. Of the first marriage were born four girls and three boys; of these only James J. and two sisters are now living. Of the sons he was the youngest. Alpheus, lived in and was identified with, El Paso, Texas, but died in a sanitarium at Los Angeles, Cal., in 1901, and William W. died in Waco, Texas, in 1909. Jane died in New York, while a mere child; the death of Sarah occurred at Bangor, Michigan, in 1881, she was Mrs. James E. Westervelt, having married

Hosted by Google

in New Jersey. Mr. Larmour's sister Matilda is the widow of Daniel Schoonmaker, one of the prominent figures in New York City real estate life in his time, and where she still resides. The other sister, who is Mrs. DeForest Gilbert, lives in Battle Creek. The only child of the father's second marriage is Mrs. Annie Chambers, also a widow, and a resident of this city. Her mother died here in 1910.

James J. Larmour was educated in the schools of Battle Creek. His first position as a boy was his employment in and about the postoffice. But his earliest service to the postal department was fraught with misfortune. For, since his father was a member of the old school Democratic party, and the boy himself too young to demonstrate by his vote the loyalty he felt for the party in power, he presently lost his position. Politics work wonders, and make strange bedfellows, for later the postmaster who was responsible for his temporary severance from the postal service because his father was a Democrat, when he lost his postoffice became the nominee, and ran as a Democrat on the Democratic ticket for Congress, but was defeated, and in later years frequently spoke of the incident to Mr. Larmour. His next experience was in the office of the *Battle Creek Journal,* during which time the *Daily Journal* was started, and Mr. Larmour who was running the press, or assisting, at the time, preserved and still possesses the first copy of the press of this paper, a most interesting souvenir of early journalism.

The postal service had always great attractiveness for Mr. Larmour, who was not long in demonstrating his efficiency for it. In 1875 he received an appointment in the postal service on the railroad, as what was then known as Route Agent, and was assigned to what is now the Grand Trunk, and was later transferred to the Michigan Central when the service on that road was enlarged. In 1880 he was appointed a Postoffice Inspector, which position he still holds. This service is attached to the office of the Postmaster General, and is directly under his control through a Chief Inspector. The headquarters for this section is located at Chicago and covers three states. Detroit is in the territory covered by Mr. Larmour, and which city occupies much of his time. His affiliations with the city are of many sorts. He was one of the first two aldermen of the Fifth Ward, when it was created. Was an active member for many years of the volunteer fire department. As a member of fraternal societies he has been exceptionally popular, having been a charter member of the original organization here of the Improved Order of Red Men, a member of the United Workmen, the National Union for many years, and the Elks. His extensive absence from home, however, have led him to discontinue his membership in these societies, retaining only his active connection with the Knights of Pythias, of which order he is one of Battle Creek's oldest members.

Mr. Larmour, notwithstanding the injustice he suffered in youthful days, has always been a stalwart Republican. As such he has profited by many enlightening experiences, especially in his acquaintance and association with such men of the party as the lamented Senator Zachariah Chandler, Governor John J. Bagley, Victor P. Collier, C. M. Wakelee, William Wallace, et al. It was his privilege, while yet a young man, to hear the discussions of these men, to hear Senator Chandler, while Chairman of the National Republican Committee, recite in private conversation all the events in detail in connection with the exciting close of the President Hayes campaign; to hear him say, had it not been for the attitude of, and the loyal support given him by General, then President Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes would have fallen short of entering the White House as President of the United States.

An episode of Mr. Larmour's journalistic days has been of great

Hosted by Google

importance in the development of his domestic life. In the printing office was employed as type-setter, a young lady named Miss Emily Kernen, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Kernen, a Swiss family who had in early days settled in Charlotte, and finally in Alma, Michigan. This young lady was educated in Michigan and was a schoolteacher for a few years. In 1874 she became the wife of Mr. Larmour. Two sons and two daughters have come to their home, both of the former and one of the latter of whom are still living. Madalyn, the eldest, is Mrs. Louis Lytton; both she and her husband are in theatrical work. A. Fred. Larmour, the older son, is a successful druggist on South Kendall street, where he established his business in 1909. Kathryn, who had been graduated from the Battle Creek High School, died in January, 1910. James J., the youngest, is engaged in newspaper work, and makes his home with his parents.

As a representative of "Uncle Sam" Mr. Larmour has been seen forty-two years of service, during which time he has successfully handled many important cases. Not, however, to experience, but rather to his own inherent strength of character is due Mr. Larmour's exceptional efficiency and his reputation for superior executive ability.

GEORGE P. WIRT. Belonging to that steady, reliable class of business men who have gained prestige and high position through the medium of their own efforts, George P. Wirt, manager of the commercial department of the Battle Creek Gas Company, is recognized as an able, shrewd and active factor in the operation of one of his city's most important enterprises. Like many of the successful business men of Battle Creek, he is a product of the farm, having been born on his father's homestead at Arrowsmith, Illinois, January 17, 1875, his parents, J. B. and Hattie (Howell) Wirt, being natives of Ohio. At the present time they are residing on a farm two miles from Battle Creek, to which they moved in January, 1912, the elder Wirt having always followed agricultural pursuits. In the family there were three sons and two daughters, one of the sons now being deceased, while George P. is the third in order of birth and the only member of the family living in Battle Creek.

George P. Wirt attended the district schools in the vicinity of his father's farm, and as a youth followed farming. However, the life of an agriculturist did not appeal to him, and at the age of twenty-two years he left the parental roof in Illinois, and came to Battle Creek, Michigan, where in 1900 he entered the service of the Battle Creek Gas Company. Hard, faithful work won its reward in various promotions, and in October, 1906, he was made manager of the commercial department, a position which he has since filled in a most capable manner. Attending strictly to business, he has always had the interests of his company at heart, and has done much to advance its growth and development. For three years Mr. Wirt was a member of the Michigan State Militia, belonging to Company L, of Battle Creek, and then secured his honorable discharge. Fraternally, he is connected with Columbia Lodge No. 272, I. O. O. F., in which he is very popular.

On September 25, 1903, Mr. Wirt was united in marriage in Battle Creek with Miss Edith Hewgill, daughter of H. P. and Mrs. Hewgill of Battle Creek, the former now deceased, and the latter living in this city. Mrs. Wirt was born at Crown Point, Indiana, and secured her education in the schools of Battle Creek. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wirt, namely: James Bruce, George Howard, Malcomb Lewis and Virginia Louise. The family home is situated at No. 160 West street.

Hosted by Google

WILLIAM J. SMITH. A leading figure in the financial world of Southern Michigan, whose management of both men and affairs has won for him a reputation that extends far beyond the limits of the state, William J. Smith, vice-president of the Old National Bank, is recognized as one of the foremost citizens of Battle Creek. Coming to this city twenty-two years ago, he immediately became an important factor in various movements which were interesting the leading business men and financiers of the rapidly-growing city, and since that time has risen to a position of almost national importance in the ranks of the Republican party. Mr. Smith was born in Charleston township, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, October 26, 1865, and is a son of John and Katherine (Joyce) Smith. His father was born in Genesee county, New York, and came to Michigan in 1857, settling in Kalamazoo county, where he resided until 1866, then removing to LeRoy township, Calhoun county. He became one of the leading farmers of his day and locality, held various public offices, and at the time of his death, March 29, 1891, his community lost one of its best and most highly esteemed citizens. The family is of German ancestry, having been founded in New England at an early date in the colonization of this country. Katherine (Joyce) Smith was also a native of Genesee county, New York, and a daughter of John Joyce, a soldier of the War of 1812, who was of Scotch-Irish origin, the family having come to America at an early day. Mrs. Smith still resides on the old Calhoun county homestead, and is a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which her husband also belonged.

William J. Smith was still in his infancy when he was brought to Calhoun county, and he was reared on the old homestead, there becoming familiar with the duties of the farmer. He attended the common schools of West LeRoy until he was fifteen years of age, at which time he entered the Battle Creek High School, and after spending two years there took a three-year course in Albion College. Subsequently he took a course in the Detroit Business University, and being thus well equipped for a business career, at the age of twenty-three years established the Exchange Bank, at Climax, Michigan, which he conducted successfully for two years. At this time, however, his health failed, and he disposed of his interests and spent several months in the South, but in the fall of 1890 returned North and assisted in the establishment of the Farmers and Mechanics' Bank, of Smith, Cole & Company, a private banking institution of Battle Creek, of which he acted as cashier until the spring of 1898. In the meantime this institution had grown to be an important factor in the financial life of Battle Creek, carrying on a most extensive business and enjoying an unassailable reputation for reliability. The close confinement made necessary by his arduous duties, however, had undermined Mr. Smith's health, and he was obliged to put aside all active business affairs for a time, the Farmers and Mechanics Bank being then consolidated with the Old National Bank of Battle Creek, Mr. Smith being made a member of the directing board. In 1906 he became vice-president of this institution, a position which he has held to the present time. Although not actively engaged in outside operations he has various large manufacturing interests both here and elsewhere, and is the owner of considerable farming property, regardless of his various interests he gives his entire personal attention to the Old National Bank.

Until 1896 Mr. Smith was a supporter of Democratic principles, but in that year transferred his allegiance to the Republican party, and since that time has risen to a high position in its councils. He has been a delegate to various conventions, but has never aspired to

Hosted by Google

public office, preferring to limit his activities to the directing end of political life. His acquaintance among the leaders of the party throughout the country is extended and confidential, and during the past eight years he has been a prominent figure in national affairs. He made the first canvass in Michigan for President Taft, and during 1912 was offered the management of the President's campaign in this state, but owing to the multiplicity of his business interests was forced to decline. When the President made his now famous trip throughout the country, it had been originally planned that there were to be but three stops made in Michigan, but through Mr. Smith's influence the route was changed so as to include Battle Creek and smaller points in Michigan, the President speaking in Battle Creek, September 21, 1911. Fraternally, Mr. Smith is connected with the Knights of the Maccabees, and the Modern Woodmen of America, and also holds membership in the Athelstan and Country Clubs, and the Sigma Chi college fraternity. With his family, he attends the Independent Congregational Church.

On November 5, 1890, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Mary Lovell, daughter of Hon. L. W. Lovell, of Climax, Michigan, and they have one son: Wendell Lovell, born November 16, 1892, a graduate of the Battle Creek High School, class of 1910, and now taking a literary course in the University of Michigan, where he expects to graduate in 1914. The home of the Smith family, at No. 161 Maple street, which was erected by Mr. Smith, is located in the ideal residence district of the city, and is a center of culture and refinement. Mrs. Smith has been active in social and charitable work, and is one of the best known members of the Women's League.

Probably there is no man in Michigan who has a wider acquaintance among bankers or men in public affairs throughout the country, who is more highly esteemed by them, than Mr. Smith. He has been distinguished for his faithfulness and single-hearted devotion to the interests of the banking institution with which he is connected, but this is characteristic of the man, for fidelity to trust and conscientious discharge of every duty is part and parcel of his nature. Personally, he is a man whose nature has not been spoiled by prosperity, and he has made friends in and out of business and political life, and, what is more, has retained them.

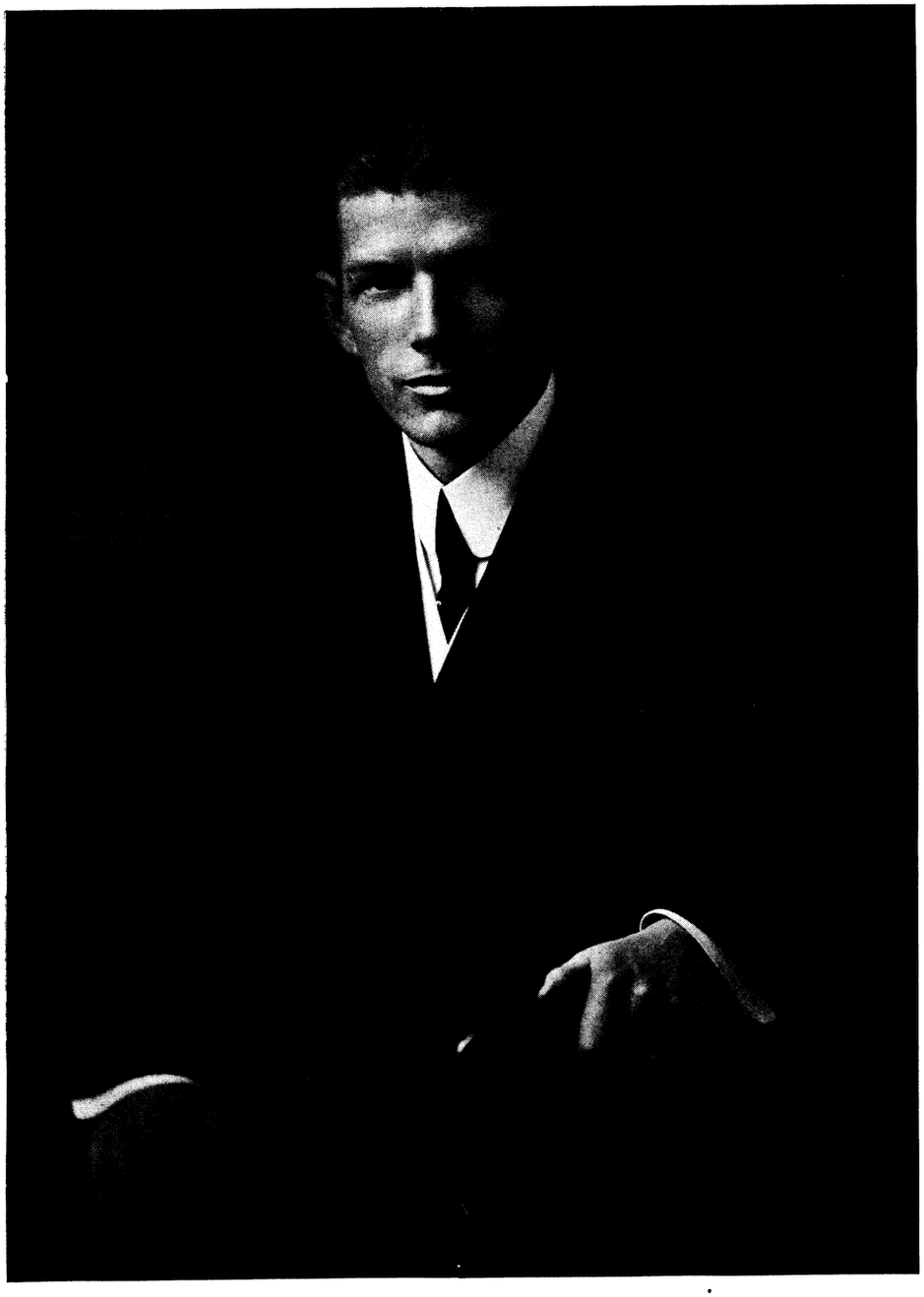
Hon. James Henry, of Battle Creek, who has been a resident of the city for the past thirty years, is especially well known for his participation in public affairs. He is an able and popular citizen, and has given much valuable service in return for the public honors bestowed upon him.

Mr. Henry was born at Pittsburg, Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, December 12, 1859. He comes of Scotch-Irish ancestry, the stock which was most prominent in the early settlement of western Pennsylvania. At Pittsburg he received his education in the public schools, and at the age of twenty-three, in 1882, came to Battle Creek, with which city his life and interests have since been identified.

As an influential unwavering Republican he has been promoted from one degree of public responsibility to another. His first office was as justice of the peace. Then he was a member of the board of supervisors for twelve years, and during that time was chairman of the board for several years. As a member of the board in 1899 he insisted on an investigation of the County Officers and as a result of his efforts as chairman of an investigating committee, there was $4,800.00, money misappropriated, returned to the county treasury. In 1900, 1903 and 1906 he was elected to the office of city assessor. In 1900 the unanimous

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



W. E. Douglas

Hosted by Google

nomination of his party was given him for the office of probate judge, but he was defeated in the election. In 1906 he was first elected as representative from the second district of Calhoun county, and his subsequent service in the legislature is well known to all and has given him a place among the leading legislators at the capital. Mr. Henry was the first man from his district to be given a third term and at this writing he has been renominated by his party without opposition for the fourth.

In 1902, Mr. Henry platted Urbandale, a beautiful and prosperous village, just west of Battle Creek and so well has he fathered and promoted the growth of the town that he has been dubbed "King Henry of Urbandale" and many people of the county know him by no other name.

Mr. Henry resides at No. 247 West Van Buren street, city of Battle Creek, and has a wife and two sons, T. J. Henry and David R. Henry.

WILLIAM E. TAYLOR. A live, wide-awake, enterprising man of business, William E. Taylor, head of the well-known firm of Taylor Brothers Company, is identified with one of the leading industries of Battle Creek, the "Taylor Made" candy which the firm manufactures, having acquired not only a state-wide reputation for purity and quality, but being known and approved of by the wholesale and retail trade of every state in the Union. Starting in a very modest way, Mr. Taylor took for his motto "Quality first, price secondary," and he believes that his strict adherence to this motto is what has brought him his success. Although the prosperity of the Taylor Brothers firm is largely due to the fine quality of the output, yet it is also due to some extent to the splendid management and the fine business qualities of Mr. Taylor.

William E. Taylor was born, on the 22d of April, 1875, in Oakland county, Michigan, a son of Reverend William A. Taylor and a grandson of the Reverend William Taylor, one of the early circuit riders of Michigan. He is the fifth in direct line of descent to bear the name of William, three of his ancestors having been ministers and it was naturally supposed that he would embrace the same profession, but he turned the energy and courage which made it possible for his forefathers to live the lives of hardship and sacrifice, which their profession entailed in the earlier days, into carving out an honorable business career for himself, when the odds were surely not in his favor. His father, the Reverend William A. Taylor was born near Romeo, Macomb county, Michigan, and as a young man entered the ministry, continuing as a preacher of the Methodist Episcopal denomination until about four years ago, when he retired. His last charge was in Bellevue, Michigan, and since his retirement he has been associated with his sons in business, at present being vice-president of the Taylor Brothers, Incorporated, as such having supervision of the trade in the far west. Before entering the ministry and since Mr. Taylor has always been one of the old War Horse Prohibitionists, being state lecturer, and serving for ten years as secretary of the State Committee, and for a time being its chairman also. He married Della A. Mosher, who was born at Holly, Michigan, and died at Battle Creek, Michigan, on the 27th of December, 1908, leaving three children, namely: William E., D. M. Taylor, secretary and treasurer of Taylor Brothers Company, Incorporated; and Miss Beulah J. Taylor, living at home. The two younger children were born in Lansing, Michigan, and were educated in Albion College.

Completing his early education in the schools of Lansing, Michigan, William E. Taylor learned the trade of a candy maker, and began work with the Johnson Baking and Candy Company of Owosso, Michigan.

Hosted by Google

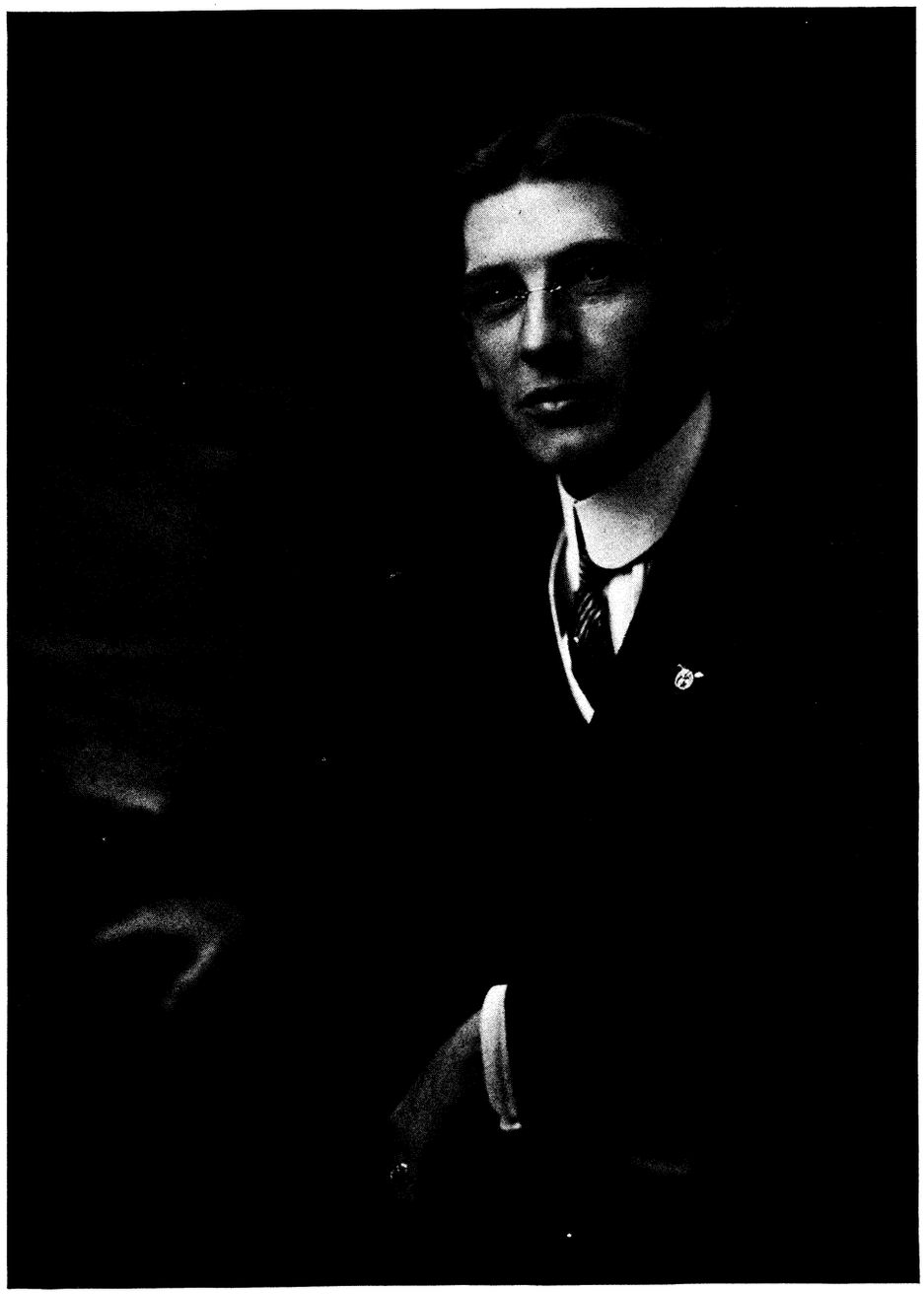
At the age of eighteen he embarked in business on his own account in a modest way, for two years, while living at Reading, where his father was preaching, manufacturing candy at home, and selling and delivering in Reading and surrounding towns. He bought his sugar by the dollars' worth and his chocolate in five and ten pound lots, making a little handful of samples in a granite sauce-pan, soliciting orders from these. He subsequently worked for four years in different candy factories, gaining valuable experience, and perfecting his knowledge of the trade. Locating in Battle Creek, in 1902 Mr. Taylor and his wife opened a retail candy store at 11 West Main street, and during the ensuing year organized the Honey Chocolate Chip Company of which he became secretary and manager, his brother in the meantime having charge of the retail store. A year later he and his brother organized what was called Taylor Brothers Company, Limited, and placed the two stores that they were then running under the charge of one of their trusted employees, R. W. H. Crabb, who is now owner of one of the finest candy stores in Battle Creek, it being located at 44 West Main street. The two stores which the Taylor Brothers then owned, were merged into one, the present company being incorporated about 1905.

This company manufactures chocolates almost exclusively, making a specialty of Sorority Chocolates and Honey Comb Chocolate Chips, manufacturing for the wholesale trade and shipping all over the United States, and across the Atlantic, their foreign trade being quite large and constantly increasing. They now have six branch houses, and the factory now occupies three buildings erected for the purpose. In 1910 they did a five hundred thousand dollar business in the United States alone. They use about nine hundred thousand pounds of sugar a year, and about four hundred and fifty thousand pounds of chocolate. The plant is equipped with especially designed machinery, such as French dipping machines, which make it possible to manufacture over two million pounds of Honey Comb Chocolate Chips per year besides other chocolates. The packing rooms where the candy is placed in boxes and pails, as well as the large stock room, are refrigerated by a special refrigeration plant, the method and installation of same was planned especially by the Taylor Bros. They are reported by refrigeration engineers to be the most modern and satisfactory refrigerated rooms used in the manufacture of chocolates in the United States—and, so far as they know, the only plant of its kind in the United States. This special system changes the air entirely every three minutes, as well as washing, filtering and drying it. The firm maintains its own printing and paper box making department, where their labels, stationery, advertising matter and boxes are manufactured.

Recently Mr. Taylor has invented a new kind of cream which is described in the following clipping taken from the *Battle Creek Enquirer* for December 30, 1911: "W. E. Taylor of the Taylor Brothers candy company, has just perfected a chocolate cream on which he has been experimenting for ten years. It is a filling which congeals instantly upon being exposed to the air. It is Mr. Taylor's intention to sell the cream at a dollar the pound. They are said to be a very choice variety and are to be marketed soon after the first of the year. In order to insure this innovation in the candy lines against imitations and infringements, Mr. Taylor contemplates having the formula patented. When Mr. Taylor first went into the candy manufacturing business with his brother more than twelve years ago he made several attempts at producing a cream that would be almost in a liquid form when the chocolate covering was broken, but which instead of running would form a hardened coating of its own when coming in contact with the

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



D. M. Taylor

Hosted by Google

atmosphere. Nothing along the line of Mr. Taylor's cream has ever before been realized although it has been tried by many of the large candy makers of the United States.''

Socially Mr. Taylor is a member of the Athelstan and Country Clubs of Battle Creek, and fraternally he belongs to Battle Creek Lodge, No. 12, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; to Battle Creek Chapter, No. 19, Royal Arch Masons; to Zabud Council, No. 9, Royal and Select Masters; to Battle Creek Commandery, No. 33, Knights Templar; to the Michigan Sovereign Consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, of Detroit; and to Moslem Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, of Detroit.

At Grand Ledge, Michigan, on the 15th of June, 1897, Mr. Taylor married Miss Katherine M. Pratt, daughter of the late Reverend B. S. Pratt, and they have one daughter, Willa Elizabeth, who was born at Battle Creek, Michigan. Mrs. Taylor's mother is still living, her home being with Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, at 84 Meacham Avenue.

Dow Mosher Taylor. Associated with his brother William E. Taylor in the firm of Taylor Brothers Company, extensive manufacturers of high-grade confectionery and owners of the well-known brands of 'Taylor-Made,' 'Honey Comb,' and 'Sorority' Chocolate Specialties, is Dow Mosher Taylor.

He too is notable for the characteristics of conscientiousness and thoroughness, the heritage of a long line of ministerial ancestors. When William A. Taylor and Della Mosher Taylor, his wife, were living in Lansing, Michigan, this son Dow Mosher Taylor was born, on March 25, 1882.

The education of D. M. Taylor was gathered from the schools he attended in various places while his father was in the ministry. He was in each a short time, at Bath, Maple Rapids, Jonesville, Reading, Grand Ledge, Holly and Ithaca, all in Michigan. He was a pupil in these public schools for about two years at a time. He spent one summer in Mt. Pleasant Summer Normal School, and at the age of 17 was graduated from the Ithaca High School, the youngest member of his class.

Mr. Taylor gained his business experience in such ways as his enterprises and ambition developed. He began working for his brother outside of school hours and during vacations, in the baker and candy business, when he was 10 years old, and continued to learn the confectioners' trade in this manner until he finished school. He then began his vocational life by driving a delivery wagon for which services he accepted the small stipend of $1.00 per day. This work was pursued in Ithaca, where he later held position as bookkeeper and billing clerk. He then tested the possibilities of the bicycle business in Ithaca, and after a short time engaged in this way, went to Weston, West Virginia, where he worked in the jewelry and bicycle business.

Being practically brought up in the candy business, he then next joined his brother at Ashland, Kentucky, in running a small candy factory there for about one year, at the end of which time on the persuasion of his father, he entered Albion College. He enjoyed the advantages of the courses of that institution for a short time after which he accepted a position in a bicycle establishment in Battle Creek for one season. He then accepted an offer with the central sales manager of a Soda Fountain Trust, and in this capacity he was manager, and opened a store for them in Charlevoix, where he remained one season. The next season he held a similar position at Sault Ste. Marie.

In 1901 Mr. Taylor permanently located in Battle Creek and entered into the confectionery business in this city with his brother, tak-

Hosted by Google

ing charge of the retail store. One year later they organized the Taylor Brothers Company, Ltd., of which he was secretary and manager, establishing permanent quarters on Champion street. In 1903, the Taylor Brothers Company, Ltd., and the Honey Comb Chocolate Chip Company, Ltd., were consolidated under the firm name of Taylor Brothers Company, of which firm he is secretary and treasurer. The business has steadily grown in prestige and pecuniary returns until it ranks high among business enterprises of the city and state.

Mr. Taylor resides at 61 Poplar street. Mrs. Dow Mosher Taylor was formerly Miss Belle Loder, a daughter of William Loder of Albion, Michigan and alumnus of Albion College. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor took place in October 1908, and they are parents of a baby daughter named Della Mable Taylor, who was born on October 9, 1910.

Mr. Taylor like his brother is popular in clubs and fraternities of Battle Creek. He is a member of the old Masonic Lodge—Battle Creek Lodge No. 12, F. & A. M. In 1909 he held the honored position of Worshipful Master of this lodge, this giving him the additional honor of being the youngest Master in the history of Battle Creek Masons. During his incumbency he established the record of having initiated over twice as many members during the year of his administration than any year before or since. He is also a member of the other Battle Creek Masonic bodies as follows: Battle Creek Chapter No. 19, Zabud Council, Battle Creek Commandery Knights Templar No. 33. He is also affiliated with the Scottish Rite Masonry, being a thirty-second degree man of the Michigan Sovereign Consistory of Detroit, as well as being a member of the Moslem Shrine.

JUDGE WALTER HARPER NORTH, since 1906, circuit judge of the Thirty-seventh Judicial District, consisting of Calhoun county, in his important position has made a record for efficiency and judicial bearing that has won the respect and admiration of the bar of this part of the state of Michigan. He is a native son of the state, his birth having occurred in the township of Somerset, Hillsdale county, this state, November 1, 1871. He is the son of William H. and Amarantha (Harper) North, both natives of Lodi, Washtenaw county, Michigan. The father began life as a farmer, but after a good many years abandoned the great basic industry and became a railroad man and it was while engaged in such duties that he met with his death in an accident. He had also at one time in his career been a merchant and in any and all capacities he enjoyed the respect of his fellow men. The mother survives and makes her home at the present time in Battle Creek. Judge North has two sisters, as follows: Jeanette, now Mrs. Homer S. Wetherell, of Chicago; and Mary L., now Mrs. Wm. A. Smith, of Chicago.

Judge North spent the earlier part of his boyhood amid the rural surroundings of his father's farm, and had his first introduction to Minerva in the District schools and graduated from the North Adams high school. He subsequently entered Hillsdale College in 1892 and was graduated from that institution of learning in 1896, receiving the degree of A. B. Following that he became a student at Ann Arbor, where he made preparation for the profession to which he was to become an ornament, in 1899, receiving the well-earned degree of LL. B. In that year Hillsdale College also conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts.

When it came to choosing a location, Battle Creek was favored by Mr. North, and he located here in the fall of 1899, entering into partnership with Jesse M. Hatch, who was at that time prosecuting attorney and remaining in association with Mr. Hatch for about a twelve month,

Hosted by Google

under the caption of Hatch & North. Ensuing upon that Mr. North formed a professional association with Duane C. Salisbury, under the firm name of North & Salisbury and remained with him until after his election to the circuit judgeship in the spring of 1905. He entered upon the duties of his office on January 1, 1906, and has ever since remained in this capacity. It is the consensus of opinion that he is eminently qualified by literary and legal attainments, professional success and experience, integrity of character and judicial qualities of mind and heart for the high place which he occupies. Previous to going upon the bench, Judge North was circuit court commissioner. In politics he is Republican, having upheld the standard of the "Grand Old Party" since his earliest voting days.

Judge North is a member of the Presbyterian church. He stands high in Masonry, and is eligible to the white-plumed helmet of the Knight Templar. At the present time he is president of the Masonic Temple Association of Battle Creek.

Judge North was happily married on the 24th of December, 1901, to Miss Myrta Phelps, daughter of Josiah Phelps of Marshall, Michigan, becoming his wife. Mrs. North is a graduate of Hillsdale College of the class of 1893 and it was while attending that institution that they became acquainted and the romance had its beginning which was to end so happily. Mrs. North was born in Fredonia township, this county and taught music before and after her graduation, her musical gifts being unusual. Judge and Mrs. North share their charming household with three children, as follows: Vera Onolee, born January 12, 1906; Walter Phelps, born July 12, 1907; and Robert Harper, born November 8, 1910. Battle Creek is the birthplace of all of them.

WILLIAM E. HICKS. The establishment of the firm of Titus & Hicks, the representative millers of Battle Creek, Michigan, dates back to the year 1837, the original proprietors being Nobles & Whitcomb. Ellery Hicks and B. B. Hicks purchased the business in 1852 and operated it for a year, B. B. Hicks then selling out his interests to Chester Buckley and a year later Mr. Buckley's interest was bought by Richard F. Titus. Since 1853 the mill has been conducted continuously under the firm name of Titus & Hicks, although Ellery Hicks died in 1861 and Richard Titus in 1868. The former was succeeded by his son, William E. Hicks, and the latter by his son, Samuel J. Titus, the present proprietors of the business. The Titus & Hicks mill was thoroughly refitted with modern milling machinery in 1885 and is today one of the best mills in this section, being operated by water power exclusively and has a capacity of 200 barrels of flour and 1,000 bushels of ground feed daily. All flour is manufactured by the full roller system.

William E. Hicks, senior member of the firm, was born in Perry, New York, June 21, 1838, son of Ellery and Meribah (Wilcox) Hicks, who were born and married in Palmyra, New York. They came to Michigan in 1851 and settled in Battle Creek, where Mr. Hicks spent a short time in the mercantile business, and in 1852, with his brother, B. B. Hicks, engaged in the milling business. He continued to be connected with the firm until his death, in February, 1861, and built up a reputation as an industrious and progressive man of affairs. His wife passed away some few years later, having been the mother of two sons and three daughters, of whom one son is deceased.

The education of William E. Hicks was secured in the schools of New York, and when his parents came to Battle Creek in the fall of 1851, he accompanied them. As a youth he entered his father's mill, and since his early boyhood has been receiving a training in the busi-

Hosted by Google

ness, with the minutest details of which he is thoroughly familiar. On April 28, 1860, Mr. Hicks was married to Miss Theresa Lawhead, of Battle Creek, who was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, and to this union there have been born five children: Charles; Mrs. Jennie Frank, Fanny and James, all of Battle Creek, and Mrs. Mary Detrich, of Eastern Pennsylvania. Mr. Hicks' fraternal connection is with the Athelstan Club. He is not a member of any religious denomination, but for the past half a century has attended the Episcopal church, and has contributed liberally to all its worthy movements. His wife and children are members of this church. The family home is at No. 61 Marshall street, and is the center of gracious refinement, all the members of the family being general social favorites. Mr. Hicks is a public spirited citizen, and takes an active part in all movements that tend to benefit his adopted city in any way. As a business man he is held in the highest esteem by his associates, and fully merits the confidence in which he is regarded by his fellow citizens.

WILLARD A. KNIGHT. In no profession is there a career more open to talent than that of the law, and in no field of endeavor is there demanded a more careful preparation, a more thorough appreciation of the ethics of life or of the underlying principles which form the basis of human rights and privileges. Unflagging application and intuitive wisdom and determination fully to utilize the means at hand, are the concomitants which insure personal success and prestige in this great profession, which stands as the stem conservator of justice; and it is one into which none should enter without a recognition of the obstacles to be encountered and overcome and the battles to be won, for success does not perch on the banner of every person who enters the competitive fray, but comes only as the legitimate result of capability. Possessing all the requisite qualities of the able lawyer, Willard A. Knight stands today among the eminent practitioners of Calhoun county. He has also given "a taste of his quality" as a legislator, having represented the county in the state assembly in most public-spirited and effective fashion.

Mr. Knight is a native son of Battle Creek and is of the type which the city is particularly proud to claim as its own. The date of his arrival upon this mundane sphere was November 10, 1876, his parents being Andrew and Delia A. (Dilley) Knight. The father was a native of Marshall, Michigan, and the mother of New York. These estimable people are residents of Battle Creek, their household being at 52 West Van Buren street. The father is retired.

Mr. Knight is the elder of two children. He received his preliminary education in this city and was graduated in 1897 from the high school. For the acquiring of his higher education he matriculated in the University of Michigan and later entered the law and literary departments, where he received his professional training, and in 1902, received the well-earned degree of LL. B. Also previous to this, having a desire for a broad business training, he had taken an extensive course in the Bryant & Stratton Business College in Chicago. In 1902, shortly after finishing his law studies at Ann Arbor, Mr. Knight began his practice in his native city and in a short time made evident those unusual gifts and attainments which characterize him. He won speedy recognition and also began to take an important part in the affairs of the Republican party, at present being identified with the Republican organization of this city, his word being of weight in the same. In 1905, he was elected to represent the interests of the people of Calhoun county in the state legislature and in that body he made an enviable

Hosted by Google

record. It was during his term in that office that a signal service was performed for the county of Calhoun. The litigation and general court business of the county had become so large in 1905 that an improved condition was imperative. It was through Mr. Knight's efforts that the bill was passed which gave to the county the alternate terms of the circuit court and gave the city of Battle Creek the circuit court as at present located.

The first municipal courts with justices paid a salary, thereby abolishing the pernicious fee system formerly in vogue, were inaugurated by amendments to the city charter fathered by Mr. Knight in the legislature. Also the county salary system was instituted whereby all county officers were paid a salary instead of fees which will save the county thousands of dollars for years to come. His stand has always been for progressive legislation in the interests of all the people. He preceded Hon. James Henry. It is safe to say that such gifts as Mr. Knight has shown will doubtless be ripened in the sun of future political preferment.

On October 3, 1901, Mr. Knight was happily married, the young woman to become his wife being Miss Isabelle Watson, of Raleigh, North Carolina. Mrs. Knight was born at Burlington Beach, near Toronto, Canada and was educated at Battle Creek. They share their household with three small daughters,—Geraldine, aged seven; Frances, aged five; Dorothy, aged two, and one son, David Willard the youngest. Mr. and Mrs. Knight are prominent in social circles here and maintain an attractive household at 44 North avenue.

Mr. Knight's fraternal affiliations are with the Knights of Pythias, No. 35, of Battle Creek; Lodge No. 29, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; the Fraternal Order of Orioles; Knights of the Modern Maccabees; Modern Brotherhood of America and Fraternal Order of Eagles. His brother, Lloyd O. Knight is also located in Battle Creek. Further mention of the family history is made in the sketch of the father, Andrew Knight, which appears on other pages of this work.

LELAND H. SABIN. Among the able and representative members of the Battle Creek bar is the junior member of the law firm of Stewart & Sabin, Leland H. Sabin, who has won reputation for his thorough knowledge of the principles of jurisprudence and as an advocate of distinctive ability. He is a native of Michigan, and was born May 14, 1872, at Centerville, Saint Joseph county, son of Dr. Marden and Mary (Smith) Sabin, both of whom reside in Centerville, where Dr. Sabin has a large practice although now living somewhat retired. Dr. Sabin is a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted some time during 1862 in the One Hundredth Indiana Volunteers as a private, and after serving about three years was honorably discharged as captain of his company. A stalwart Republican, he has been state senator and village president for a large part of the time, and has also acted as president of the village school board. In 1910 the degree (honorary) of Master of Arts was conferred upon him by the University of Michigan. He and his wife had two children: Mrs. H. Curtis Hoffman, of Oak Park, Illinois; and Leland H.

Leland H. Sabin received his preliminary education in the village schools of Centerville, and in 1891 graduated from the high school at Ann Arbor. In the class of 1896 he was graduated from the University of Michigan, in law, and in 1898 completed his studies in the literary department, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Thus thoroughly fitted for the practice of law, he returned to Centerville and entered the office of Mr. H. P. Stewart, but after one year came to Battle Creek,

Hosted by Google

where he practiced alone from 1898 until 1902 and in the latter year Mr. Stewart came here and a professional partnership was formed, under the style of Stewart & Sabin. Mr. Stewart still maintains an office in Centerville, but Mr. Sabin has no connection therewith. In political matters Mr. Sabin is a Republican, and fraternally he is connected with the local lodge of the Masonic order. He also is a popular member of the Athelstan Club. of which he has been president and is the present chief executive of the Country Club. Member of Baptist church of Centerville. His modern residence is situated at No. 136 Henry street, and is a center of culture and social refinement. Mr. Sabin is constantly gaining ground, both professionally and in a personal way, being a desired addition to every social circle, and having a potential influence in regard to all matters of public interest.

On June 2, 1909, Mr. Sabin was married to Miss Eloise Skinner, who was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, daughter of B. T. Skinner, who is still living, her mother having died in 1909. Mrs. Sabin was educated in the public schools of Battle Creek, and was graduated from the high school in 1900. She and Mr. Sabin have one son: Brainard S., who was born in Battle Creek, April 19, 1910.

HUGH P STEWART. As a member of the bar of Calhoun county who holds distinguished professional prestige and marked honor as a public-spirited citizen, Hugh P. Stewart, of Battle Creek, senior member of the law firm of Stewart & Sabin, is well worthy of mention in a work of this nature. He was born in St. Joseph county, Michigan, July 6, 1856, whence his parents, Daniel and Mary (McFarland) Stewart, natives respectively of Albany and Saratoga, New York, had come in 1837. They had been married in the Empire state, and drove through to Michigan, where Daniel Stewart was engaged in farming and contracting and building until his death in 1876, his widow surviving until 1887. Of the eight children born to them, only three are now living.

The last-born of his father's children, Hugh P. Stewart received his early education in the schools of St. Joseph county, and as a youth studied law under the preceptorship of the late ex-Judge R. W. Mellendy, who was attracted to the lad, saw promise in him, and educated him in law, literature and other branches according to his own ideas. In 1878 Mr. Stewart was admitted to the bar and at once commenced practice in the village of Centerville. A stanch Republican in politics, he was prosecuting attorney of St. Joseph county for four years, acted as a member of the Constitutional convention, and in 1893 was nominated for circuit judge, but owing to political conditions at that time, met with defeat. For one year Mr. Stewart was in partnership with Leland H. Sabin in Centerville, and followed the latter to Battle Creek in 1902, the firm of Stewart & Sabin now maintaining well-appointed offices at 602-603 Ward building, while Mr. Stewart also continues his offices in Centerville, where he also has his home. He is known as a thoroughly well equipped lawyer, strong advocate and safe counsellor, is a man of individuality and high attainments, and enjoys unmistakable popularity in both professional and social circles. Fraternally, he belongs to the Blue Lodge and Chapter at Centerville, the Council and Commandery at Three Rivers, and the Consistory and Shrine at Grand Rapids, and is also a valued member of the Athelstan Club of Battle Creek.

On December 17, 1884, Mr. Stewart was married in Centerville to Miss Anna Harbrouck, who was born, reared and educated in that place, where their two children were also born: Madge Anna, a graduate of the Ann Arbor high school and the literary department of the University of Michigan; and Donald P., both residing at home.

Hosted by Google

HON. ALBERT CHARLES KINGMAN. For a quarter of a century one of the most skilful and successful members of the Calhoun county bar was Albert Charles Kingman of Battle Creek. A few years ago Mr. Kingman retired from the active ranks of the legal practitioners, leaving the honors and rewards of the profession to the succeeding generation of attorneys. However, he has by no means retired from all the public activities of his city and county. In 1908 and again in 1910 he was elected to the state senate from the ninth district, comprising Branch and Calhoun counties. His broad experience and ability have been of great service in the work of the upper house. In his home city Mr. Kingman is prominent in the public and social affairs of the community. The Kingman residence, at 27 Elm street, is one of the best constructed and most beautiful homes in Battle Creek, an inviting and reposeful place in which to spend the latter years of a successful career.

Senator Kingman was born at Corning, Steuben county, New York, June 18, 1850. His father was Wilson Kingman, a tinsmith by trade who in later years was also a hardware dealer. His mother's maiden name was Abigail Hungerford. When Albert C. was quite young the family moved to Angelica, Allegany county, New York, where they lived until 1867, during which time the son received a part of his education in the local academy. In 1867 the family came to Michigan and located at Cassopolis, where the Kingman name is well known, and here the parents spent the remainder of their lives, and they are buried in Cass county.

In 1868 Mr. Kingman entered Kalamazoo College as a freshman, and was graduated there with the degree of A. B., in 1872, and two years later was given the degree of A. M. at the same institution. In the meantime he had begun the study of law at Dowagiac and then at the University of Michigan, and in 1874 was admitted to the bar. In April, 1877, he located at Battle Creek and soon had a large and profitable practice in this county. Besides his profession he has been interested in much of the business progress of this city, and is still a stockholder in the Nichols & Shepard Company, the Old National Bank and other local enterprises. However, almost his only business activity now is connected with his real estate holdings. In 1902 he erected the Kingman block, one of the well known office buildings, and has his own office in one of the suites of that block.

For many years he has been one of the influential members of the Republican party. Besides the honor and responsibility conferred on him by his election to the state senate, he also served on the school board for six years and represented the Fourth ward in the city council two years. For fifteen years he was president of the board of the Independent Congregational church, and was chairman of the building committee when they built what is considered the finest church edifice in Battle Creek and one of the best in the state. He is also a member of the Country Club.

At St. Joseph, Michigan, May 2, 1876, Mr. Kingman was married to Miss Emma M. Edwards. Mrs. Kingman is a native of Milwaukee, and received her education at Fox Lake Seminary in Wisconsin and at Kalamazoo College. Her parents, William and Sarah (David) Edwards, both now deceased, were born in Wales, and her father was one of the early settlers and for many years engaged in the jewelry business at Milwaukee. Miss Regina Kingman, the only child, was graduated from the Battle Creek high school in 1903 and then attended the University of Michigan for two years. She now resides at home and is a teacher in public school No. 3.

Hosted by Google

CHARLES F. MCKENZIE, LL. B. Prominent among the members of the legal profession in Calhoun county is Charles F. McKenzie, of Battle Creek, who has taken a prominent place among the active and progressive legists of the city, and who has rendered signal service in official capacities. Mr. McKenzie was born in Banfield, Michigan, September 7, 1874, and is a son of John and Carrie E. (Fish) McKenzie.

John McKenzie was born near Aberdeen, Scotland, and was a representative of the old McKenzie clan of that country. When seven years of age he emigrated to Ontario, Canada, with his parents, the family being established near London, where Mr. McKenzie was reared to maturity. In 1865 he removed to Barry county, Michigan, and there engaged in farming near Banfield. In that locality he was married to Miss Carrie E. Fish, of that county, in which locality her parents had located on their removal west from New York. She died May 6, 1903, and he passed away in 1910, on the old homestead in Barry county, where they had spent the greater part of their lives.

Charles F. McKenzie was educated in the district schools near Banfield, after which he attended Albion College, and there took an elective course preparatory to taking up the study of law. Having spent four years at Albion College, he went to Ann Arbor and became a student in the law department of the University of Michigan in 1896, and after studying there for a time engaged in business in Detroit for one year. He had for some time been a member of Company L, Detroit Light Infantry of the National Guard when the Spanish-American war broke out, and with his company he enlisted and was mustered into the United States service as a member of Company L, Thirty-second Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry. The command was sent to Tampa, Florida, and was stationed there and at Fernandina until the close of the war. Upon his return to the North, Mr. McKenzie took up his law studies in Ann Arbor, and after two years graduated with the class of 1900, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Immediately thereafter he was admitted to the bar and went to Detroit, where he remained with a prominent law firm for some time. During the fall of the same year he came to Battle Creek, Michigan, opening an office at No. 306 Post building, and since has built up a large and representative business. He has been connected with a number of well known cases of importance in the city, and is acting in the capacity of attorney for a number of large corporations. Politically a Republican, Mr. McKenzie was made alderman of the third ward, serving until April, 1908, to fill a vacancy, and was then elected to the office for a regular term of two years, beginning April 1, 1908, and ending in April, 1910. He also served as circuit court commissioner from 1904 to 1906. He belongs to the A. T. Metcalf Lodge, F. & A. M., No. 419, of this city, and to the Knights of Pythias and the Athelstan and Community Clubs. He was one of the early members of the Association of Spanish War Veterans, becoming a charter member of the post in this city. He has held the office of chaplain and has served as aide-de-camp on the staff of M. Emmett Murell, the commander-in-chief, which gives him the rank of colonel, his commission bearing the date of January 2, 1903. In September, 1903, he attended the national encampment held at New Haven, Connecticut, and took an active and interested part in founding the command at Battle Creek.

On December 14, 1899, Mr. McKenzie was united in marriage with Miss Birdie L. Miles, of Battle Creek, daughter of Amos S. and Alice A. (Marsh) Miles, and to this union there has been born one daughter: Pauline Louise. The modern family residence of the McKenzies is situated at No. 21 Glenwood avenue.

Hosted by Google

MILES S. CURTIS. As postmaster of Battle Creek since 1906, Miles S. Curtis has performed a large amount of useful public service for his home city and has managed the affairs of his office to the best advantage and convenience of the citizens. Mr. Curtis has been a resident of Calhoun county nearly forty years, and the family name has been identified with worthy citizenship and business ability throughout this period.

Miles S. Curtis was born in Ashtabula county, Ohio, April 1, 1852. His father was Elijah Curtis, a native of New York state, who settled in Ohio when he was about twenty-one years of age. At the three-months' call for soldiers in the Civil war he enlisted, served the entire time, then entered the longer service in the Nineteenth Ohio Infantry, and finally was in the Twenty-ninth Ohio when he was wounded and discharged. His occupation had always been farming. Having relatives in Calhoun county, where he had visited occasionally from 1868 on, in the spring of 1874 he settled here permanently on a farm three miles north of the city of Battle Creek. After the death of his third wife, about 1878, he made his home with his son Miles until his death, which occurred in his eighty-seventh year. His first wife's maiden name was Harriet St. John. One of the children, Lorrell, who was seven years older than Miles, went into the army at the age of nineteen as a member of the Twenty-fifth Ohio battery of light artillery, and died in service, being buried at Little Rock, Arkansas.

The present postmaster received his early education in his native state of Ohio, where he lived until he had attained his majority. He was in school at the Grand River Institute in Austinburg six years, then taught a term in district school, and for a time had charge of the bookkeeping and penmanship department in the high school at Jefferson, Ohio. In 1873, when he moved to Michigan, he went on the farm with his father, but after his marriage moved to a farm of his own, part of which he still owns. Since the fall of 1895 he has been a resident of Battle Creek, and for ten years held the office of grand keeper of records and seals for the Knights of Pythias. He is a member of the Battle Creek Lodge No. 35 of this order, and is one of the leading representatives of the order in Michigan, having been through all the degrees and held all the offices of the Grand Lodge.

His first appointment as postmaster came on June 26, 1906, from President Roosevelt. His second appointment was made by President Taft and is dated June 13, 1910. He has taken an active interest in public affairs for many years, was supervisor of Penfield township two terms, and in 1895 was a member of the legislature and served two years. Then in 1898 was elected for one term to the office of mayor of Battle Creek. Besides his prominent connection with the Knights of Pythias he is also a member of the Masonic order. He is a member of the Athelstan Club of Battle Creek.

The Curtis family home is at 163 Calhoun street. October 31, 1879, Mr. Curtis married Miss Mary E. Nye, of Battle Creek. After serving one term as mayor, Mr. Curtis refused to accept another term and also refused to accept another term in the legislature, believing it his duty to serve the Knights of Pythias and served twelve years as grand keeper of records and seals and gave up that office when appointed postmaster of Battle Creek by President Roosevelt.

They are the parents of two sons: Lorrell N. is connected with the Merchants Savings Bank of Battle Creek; Claude C., who graduated in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan in 1907, is now employed with the Stone-Webster Company of Boston, having recently been transferred from Portico to the main office in Boston. Lorrell N. is married and has a son, Wilbur N., born February 24, 1906. Claude is

Hosted by Google

single. Both sons were born and received their early education in Battle Creek.

FRED G. REMINGTON. The practical management and success of the Battle Creek Gas Company depend on the capable services of Mr. F. G. Remington, the general superintendent. He has been identified with the company for the past eight years. Previous to that he was connected with the gas company of Detroit, his entire business career having been spent in this line of manufacturing.

Mr. Remington was born in Detroit, March 24, 1872, a son of Fred A. and Mary (Greenfield) Remington, who reside at 936 Lafayette boulevard in Detroit. For the past ten years or more his father has been connected with the Detroit City Gas Company. Of the five children, Fred G. is the oldest and the only representative of the family in Battle Creek.

After his public schooling in Detroit he spent one year in the pharmacy department of the Detroit College of Medicine, but then gave up his intention of pursuing this profession, and began as an apprentice in the various branches of the gas business with the city company. He was clerk in the station B plant, also worked at station A and main offices, and then following another period in the station B he came to Battle Creek as superintendent of manufacture for the local company. In April, 1904, he was made general superintendent, in addition to his previous duties taking charge of the distribution department, which includes the laying of mains and all the service of supplying the facilities of distribution to the consumers. He has thus managed all the large extensions of the company's facilities during the last eight years. He also owns some of the stock in the plant.

With fraternal affairs his interest is with the Masonic order, his membership being in the Palestine lodge at Detroit, and the B. P. O. E. at Battle Creek. His family belong to the Episcopal church. Mr. Remington's home is at 611 West Main street. His wife to whom he was married April 15, 1903, was formerly Miss Emma Schmeltz. Mrs. Remington was born and received her education in Detroit. Her father was the late Henry J. Schmeltz of that city, where her mother is still living.

WILLIAM J. FOSTER. Progressively identified with the interests of Battle Creek and vicinity, the family of which Mr. William J. Foster is a representative has witnessed and contributed to the increase and prosperous growth of this city since 1867. It is an old and honored name in this part of the county, and the essential facts of its history should be recorded in this work.

Joseph Leonard Foster, who founded the family here, was born in Oneida county, New York, August 5, 1815. As a resident of his native state for half a century, he became a substantial farmer and acquired the reputation of an authority by his success in sheep husbandry. He was married February 21, 1838, to Miss Jane McCrory. Born in Ireland, at the age of eight years she was brought to America in her parents' family, and spent seven weeks in passage on an old sailing vessel. This worthy couple in 1867 came west and settled on the estate in Battle Creek township on Goguac prairie, with which locality the name has since been specially identified. Here the parents lived until their death, about 1895, one having survived the other only about six months.

Their son William J. Foster was born in Wyoming county, New York, February 11, 1839, being the only child. His early education was obtained chiefly at the Wyoming county academy, and on leav-

Hosted by Google

ing school he returned to his father's farm and began the career in agriculture and stock raising by which he acquired his substantial position in material affairs. He moved with his father and mother to Calhoun county, where he has been influential in business and in public life. The Foster estate, which originally comprised one hundred and sixty acres was contiguous to the town of Battle Creek, and with the growth of the city one hundred acres have already been absorbed and cut up into city lots. Mr. Foster is owner of one hundred and sixty acres of farm land at another location in Battle Creek township.

Both he and his father have gladly co-operated with the progress of their home community. The farm separates Battle Creek from the attractive Goguac lake, and when the old horse-car line was constructed the late J. L. Foster contributed a strip of ground through his estate for the use of the road. Mr. William J. Foster took a like progressive attitude when the electric line was built, allowing the company to run its way through the middle of his farm.

In 1901 the votes of the second district of Calhoun county elected Mr. Foster as their representative in the state legislature, where he justified the expectations of his many friends by working for the best interests of his locality and state and gaining a reputation for sound principles and thorough integrity as a legislator. In politics he is a Republican, is a member of the Masonic order of Battle Creek, a member of the Athelstan Club, and attends, though not a member, the Congregational church.

Mr. Foster's first wife, whom he married in New York state, died at Battle Creek in 1891. There were no children by that union. June 30th, 1897, he was married to Mary E. Linihan. Her father, Martin Linihan, was one of the old and respected settlers of Battle Creek township, where she was born and reared and after her education in the Battle Creek schools she was engaged in teaching in this city and at Homer. Mr. and Mrs. Foster have one son, Joseph Leonard Foster, who was born in Battle Creek, July 22, 1906. The comfortable home of the family is located just outside the city limits, on rural route No. 10.

ABRAM ROBERT MCINTYRE, retired railroad official, was born near Montreal, Canada, on the St. Lawrence river, January 24, 1851, and is a son of Abram Harvey and Jane A. (Donaldson) McIntyre, both native Canadians. Abram Harvey McIntyre was for a number of years a hotel keeper, but during the latter years of his life engaged in farming. Of the thirteen children born to himself and wife, six died in childhood. His wife passed away in Canada in the sixty-fifth year of her age, and after her death he lived at various times at the homes of his children, his demise occurring in Canada when he was eighty-one years old. Five children are still living: Abram Robert; Mrs. Daniel Waldorf, of Cornwell, Canada; Mrs. Herman Waldorf, also of Cornwell; Lillian, of Ossining, New York, and for a number of years matron of the Old People's Home, a charitable institution maintained by wealthy patrons; and James Albert, freight agent of the Michigan Central Railroad, at Union City, Michigan.

Abram Robert McIntyre was educated in the schools of Canada, and in 1866 left home and went to work for the Grand Trunk Railroad as operator. In 1869 he was transferred to what is now West Detroit, where he remained until April, 1870, then going to Fort Gratiot, Michigan. In April, 1876 he left the service of the Grand Trunk, finding that he could better himself as to working hours and in other ways, and came to Battle Creek as chief dispatcher for the Peninsular Railroad. He had charge of the line betwen Lansing and Valparaiso

Hosted by Google

until 1885, in which year he was transferred to Chicago, and there became trainmaster of the Western Division of the Grand Trunk lines. In May, 1888, he returned to Battle Creek, as assistant superintendent, this title lasting over the D. G. H. & M. and Cincinnati, Saginaw and Mackinaw and the Chicago & Grand Trunk from Port Huron to Chicago. He continued as assistant superintendent until 1898, at which time he severed his connection with the road on account of ill health. After spending a few years in the mountains of Colorado, Mr. McIntyre was persuaded, in May, 1902, to resume railroading, accepting the agency of the D. T. & M., now a part of the Vanderbilt System, and was agent here until May, 1906. At that time he was transferred to the main office of the Michigan Central Railroad at Battle Creek, taking charge of all of that company's business. In May, 1910, ill health again caused his resignation. In 1904 Mr. McIntyre built a handsome home at No. 257 Garfield avenue. He has shown his confidence in the welfare of Battle Creek's industrial concerns by investing in a number of manufacturing companies. He is a master mason of A. T. Metcalf Lodge No. 419, and for a quarter of a century was connected with the Athelstan Club. With his family he attends the Congregational church.

On April 14, 1879, Mr. McIntyre was married in Battle Creek to Miss Mary Lois Latta, daughter of Alfred and Martha E. (Hill) Latta, a sketch of whose lives will be found in another part of this work. Mrs. McIntyre was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and was there educated and at Olivet College. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. McMcIntyre was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and was there educated and Ida Martha, born and educated in Battle Creek, graduating from the high school in the class of 1909, and also a student in the Michigan Business and Normal College. As a railroad man Mr. McIntyre is known throughout this and several other States, and is recognized as a railroad operator of capacity and ability. Having begun his career as a railroad man, as agent in a country station, he has thoroughly familiarized himself with all the details of railroad business and management, and has earned promotion by hard work and thorough honesty, intelligent effort and efficient services. He has made a close study of what may be termed "the science of railroading," has knowledge of the principles governing the operation of railroads, the rules and regulations pertaining to railroad traffic, and is a man also of extensive general information. As a citizen he has the respect and esteem of his fellow-citizens.

Louis E. Stewart. An active and able member of the Michigan bar, Louis E. Stewart of Battle Creek, head of the firm of Stewart & Jacobs, has achieved a splendid success in his profession through a wise and systematic application of his abilities to his work, which ever demands veritable talent and a broad knowledge. A son of Henry W. Stewart, he was born August 19, 1870, near Grand Rapids, Kent county, Michigan.

Reared to agricultural pursuits, Henry W. Stewart was for many years engaged in farming in Michigan, but is now a resident of Florida. In the fall of 1882 he was elected sheriff of Antrim county, Michigan, and served in that capacity for eight years, winning a fine record as a public official. His wife, whose maiden name was Adeline Holden, died in 1883, in Antrim county, Michigan, which had then been the home of the family for eight years.

Educated in the schools of Mancelona, Michigan, Louis E. Stewart taught school the summer in which he attained his majority, after

Hosted by Google

which he learned the printer's trade in Bellaire, Michigan. The following year he resumed his studies, and in 1894 was graduated from the Bellaire high school. His natural tastes and inclinations turning towards a professional life, Mr. Stewart then entered the Law Department of the University of Michigan, where, in 1896, he was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Immediately locating in Albion, Michigan, he remained there six years, during which time he built up a substantial patronage. Since November, 1902, Mr. Stewart has been actively engaged in his professional practice at Battle Creek, and in partnership with Mr. Henry F. Jacobs, since May 1, 1904, being senior member of the firm of Stewart & Jacobs, attorneys-at-law. This firm carries on a general law business, with some corporation practice, and has an extensive and lucrative clientele, it being one of the leading law firms of the city.

In his political affiliations, Mr. Stewart is a stanch Republican, and since early manhood has been more or less identified with public affairs. At the age of twenty-one years he was elected city marshal of Bellaire; was circuit court commissioner while living in Albion; in 1907 and 1908 he served as prosecuting attorney of Calhoun county; and in 1911 was elected to the Battle Creek Board of Education for a term of three years. Fraternally Mr. Stewart is a member, of Battle Creek Lodge, No. 12, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons; a member of the Order of the Eastern Star; of Bryant Chapter, Modern Woodmen of America, of Albion; and of the Knights of Pythias, of Battle Creek. He is also a member of St. Andrew's Scottish Society, and of the Athelstan Club, of Battle Creek. Religiously he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

On August 5, 1903, at Albion, Michigan, Mr. Stewart was united in marriage with Miss Clarissa Dickie, who was born in Hastings, Michigan, and was educated at Albion College, being graduated from its Conservatory. Her father, Dr. Samuel Dickie, M. S., LL. D., is president of Albion College, and one of the advisory editors of this work. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart have two children, namely: Mary, born in Albion, Michigan; and Elizabeth, born in Battle Creek, Michigan. The family have a pleasant residence at No. 192 Fremont street, and there take pleasure in entertaining their many friends.

HENRY F. JACOBS. In considering the prominent legal firms in Battle Creek one's mind instinctively turns to the firm of Stewart & Jacobs, of No. 6 Kingman Block, a concern which has acted as counsel in some of the most important litigation carried on in the Michigan courts in late years. The younger member of this partnership, Henry F. Jacobs, was born in Mount Elgin, Ontario, October 26, 1872, a son of Samuel J. and Melissa (Smith) Jacobs, natives of County Oxford, Ontario, of Irish and English descent.

Henry F. Jacobs was six years of age when brought to the United States, his parents settling in Watrousville, Tuscola county, Michigan, where the lad was reared on his father's farm and attended the graded and high schools. Graduating from the latter in 1891 he began teaching school, a profession which he followed four years, and in the spring of 1895 entered Albion College, where he remained until February, 1899. He then became a student in the literary department of the University of Michigan, from which he was graduated in 1900, and in June, 1902, completed his studies in the law department, shortly thereafter being admitted to the bar. In November, 1902, a professional partnership was formed with a classmate, Lewis W. Leisening, and the firm of Leisening & Jacobs at once began practice in Battle Creek, the

Hosted by Google

association continuing until the death of the senior partner, in March, 1904, when the firm of Stewart & Jacobs was founded. Mr. Jacobs possesses a keen and analytical mind and a broad and comprehensive mental vision, enabling him to assimilate the correlation of ideas and to instinctively grasp the fundamental and basic elements of the subject under consideration. Added to this he is a logical reasoner and an eloquent and forceful public speaker. While in Albion College and at Ann Arbor, he was very active in oratorical and debating work, representing both institutions on several occasions in contests with institutions of other States. These attributes and accomplishments are essential in a successful legal career, and by the possession of these superior qualities, which in themselves are marks of distinction, Mr. Jacobs has attained an enviable station in his profession. He has served as counsel in some very important litigation that has attracted widespread attention, and his ability and superior merit has obtained the recognition that it deserves.

Mr. Jacobs was married June 25, 1902, at North Branch, Michigan, to Miss Mabel G. Butler, whose mother died in 1901, while her father, William Butler, still survives, and for more than thirty years has been engaged in the hardware and farm implement business. He is prominent in local politics, and one of the most influential Democrats in Lapeer county. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs have two children: William H., who is eight years of age; and Ethel Maude, aged six. Mr. Jacobs has been a lifelong Republican.

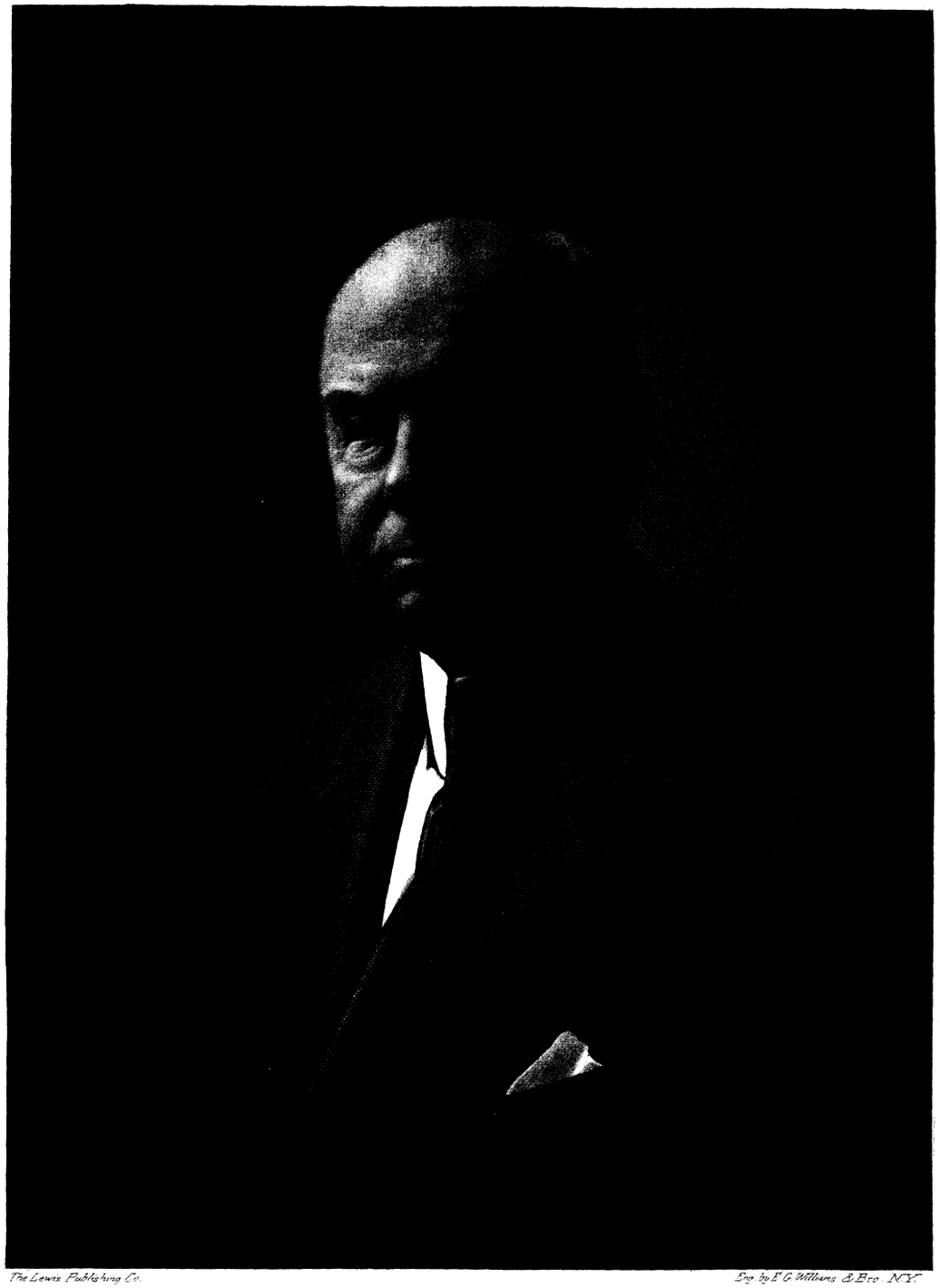
EDWARD CHAUNCEY HINMAN. The Central National Bank of Battle Creek, located at the corner of Main street and Jefferson avenue, was organized in 1903. With a capital stock of $200,000 and a surplus of $50,000, this is the largest bank in this section of Michigan, and has had a prosperous, progressive record during every year of its history. In March, 1912, the capital stock was increased to $300,000.00 and surplus to $150,000.00 and with resources over $4,500,000 makes the Central National Bank the largest and strongest bank in southwestern Michigan. The bank has fine offices and the latest improvements for safety and facilitation of business.

One of the men most active in the organization and president of the institution from the beginning is Edward Chauncey Hinman, who has been prominently identified with the business and civic life of Battle Creek for nearly forty years. A member of the Hinman family which has contributed to the development of Battle Creek and Calhoun county almost from the pioneer era, he was born in this city March 1, 1852, a son of John F. and Harriet E. (Hayt) Hinman.

The first American ancestor of this branch of the family was Sergeant Edward Hinman, who was born in England in 1609, was a member of King Charles First's body guard, and during the time of Oliver Cromwell escaped from England and became a resident of Stratford, Connecticut, in 1650. From him in the line of descent comes through Benjamin Hinman, Judge Noah Hinman and Abijah Adoniram Hinman, both of the latter being Connecticut soldiers in the war of the Revolution. A son of the last named was Truman H. Hinman, who lived and died at Castleton, Vermont, where he followed the occupation of farmer.

A son of this Vermont farmer, the late John F. Hinman was born at Castleton, March 17, 1816, was reared there, but in 1836, when a young man of twenty years and at a time when southern Michigan was beginning to fill up with the first tide of settlers, he came west and settled at Bellvue, in Eaton county. He was one of the early

Hosted by Google



The Lewis Publishing Co. Eng. by E.G. Williams & Bro. N.Y.

Edward O. Leiman

Hosted by Google

merchants of that community and remained there until 1851, when he sold out and moved to Battle Creek. Here he and his brother established a large store under the firm name of B. F. & J. E. Hinman. Both in business and public affairs John F. Hinman was successful and influential. He was recognized as one of the strong adherents of the Republican party from its first organization, but he never ran for any office. The Hinman block, erected by himself and brother, contained the old Hinman Hall in which the first Republican meetings in Battle Creek were held. After a long and honored career, John F. Hinman passed away February 6, 1900. His widow Harriet E. Hayt Hinman died March 17, 1907. The Presbyterian church counted them among its members for half a century or more.

Harriet Elizabeth Hayt, who became the wife of the late Mr. Hinman, was the daughter of John Tompkins Hayt. Her lineal descent from the famous John Alden of New England is as follows: John Alden and Priscilla Mullens' daughter Elizabeth became the wife of William Paybody. Their daughter Rebecca married William Southworth. Joseph Southworth, their son, wedded Mary Blake. To them was born a son Constant, who married Rebecca Richmond.

A son of the last named, Major William Southworth, who won his title by valiant service in the Revolution, married Mary Throop, and their daughter Harriet became the wife of Ira Tillotson. Harriet Tillotson, a daughter of this marriage, was the wife of John Thompkins Hayt, of Patterson, New York, and the mother of Mrs. Hinman. Mr. Hayt brought his family to Bellvue, Michigan, where his daughter and John F. Hinman were married April 23, 1845. Six of their children reached mature years.

Edward Chauncey, one of these children, was reared and received his early schooling at Battle Creek. His college days were passed at the University of Michigan, where he was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1874. He is a member of the Chi Psi college fraternity. His first active work was in the government engineering work on the Fox and Wisconsin rivers improvement, at which he was employed from 1874 to 1880. For the next two years he was in the grain business at Port Huron, and since 1882 has been permanently identified by residence and business with his native city. Until 1888 he was senior member of Hinman & Ward, millers. In 1890 he purchased an interest in the Battle Creek Machinery Company. That was then one of the smaller factories of the city, and about fifty men were on the payroll and its output restricted in amount and in extent of sales territory. With Mr. Hinman as secretary and treasurer of the company, the business was greatly increased, until in 1898 it was reorganized and incorporated under the name of the American Steam Pump Company, with capital stock of $500,000 and with no indebtedness. In the new company Mr. Hinman continued to hold the same office he had under the previous organization until he was made president.

Besides these two enterprises which have foremost place in a business summary of Battle Creek, Mr. Hinman has many other interests. Successful in business, he has also given his energies and civic spirit for the betterment of his home city. It was largely through his instrumentality that the appropriation for the federal building was obtained. A member of the Athelstan Club, during his two years as president the elegant club rooms were opened in the Post building. He also affiliates with the Metcalf Lodge, A. F. & A. M., also with the chapter, council and commandery in this city, and with Saladin Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Grand Rapids. His other fraternal connections are with the Elks and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. As a Republican but

Hosted by Google

more as a good citizen, he has served as alderman from his home ward, the fourth, but has refused all other offices. His residence at 303 Maple street is one of the most attractive homes in this city.

Mr. Hinman married, in 1876, Miss Carrie L. Risdon, who passed away in 1887, leaving two daughters, Gertrude B. and Belle R. Mrs. Hinman had been reared at Ann Arbor, and was educated in Dr. Annett's school of Boston. She was a daughter of Lewis C. and Gertrude B. (Judd) Risdon. The latter was a descendant of Thomas Judd, who came from England in 1633. Another of Mrs. Hinman's ancestors was Thomas Hastings, who settled in Boston in 1652, and on the father's side her ancestry goes back to Orange Risdon, Josiah Risdon and David Risdon. The present Mrs. Hinman was before her marriage Miss Isadore M. Risdon, a sister of the first wife.

THEODORE E. SANDS, M. D. For a quarter of a century a practicing physician and surgeon of Battle Creek, the life of Dr. Theodore E. Sands was a benefit and an inspiration to the people of his community, and in his untimely passing out on June 22, 1911, Battle Creek lost a man who could hardly be spared from the ranks of her valuable and admirable citizens. His life and work among the people of the community in which he had been a familiar figure for so long was of an order eminently calculated to win to him the respect and love of all, and in those qualities his life was richly endowed.

Dr. Theodore E. Sands was born in Shipping Port, Pennsylvania, June 5, 1861. He was the son of Elijah Sands, captain on a river boat running between New York and New Orleans. The son, Theodore, remained in his native town until he reached the age of sixteen years, attending the public schools, and he then moved with his parents to Napoleon, Ohio, where the father became engaged in the lumber business, and where he continued his studies in the high school until he was about eighteen years of age. He then entered the law office of Judge David Meekison, it being his intention to pursue the study of law, and he continued his studies under the preceptorship of the old judge until he was ready to take his final examinations, which he passed successfully, and was admitted to the bar as soon as he had reached his majority. He entered upon active practice in Napoleon, but a thorough test of the profession convinced him that the work was not congenial to him, and that he was better fitted for other labors. He had been strongly attracted by the medical profession, and after mature consideration, he decided to give up his legal work and study medicine. In the fall of 1882 he became a student in the office of Dr. W. J. Fairfield of Battle Creek, then medical superintendent of the Health Home. In 1883 he pursued a course of study in the University of Michigan covering a period of two years, after which he attended the Starling Medical College at Columbus, Ohio, graduating from that institution with honors. The young doctor then returned to Battle Creek, where he became the recognized successor of his former friend and preceptor, Dr. Fairfield, being appointed to the responsible position of superintendent of the Health Home, which he held during the remainder of its existence. The institution was later superseded by the Nichols Memorial Hospital, with which Dr. Sands was subsequently connected as consulting and visiting physician and surgeon. He always maintained an abiding interest in the hospital, and as a member of the staff gave much of his time to the enterprise, not alone in his advisory capacity but in lecturing before the training classes. His private practice was exceedingly large, and his days were planned with a view to utilizing every valuable moment, that being the only possible way in which he might

Hosted by Google

meet the heavy drafts upon his time. Dr. Sands was a registered pharmacist, and a post graduate in therapeutics. As a devoted member of his profession he spent considerable time at various intervals in the foreign hospitals, and his skill in surgical work was widely acknowledged, while he made an especial study of the subject of gynecology.

Dr. Sands was one of the original promoters and owners of Urbandale, a suburb of Battle Creek, and he was interested in real estate and general building to a large extent throughout the city. He was a member of Battle Creek Lodge No. 12 A. F. & A. M., Royal Arch Masons and Knights Templar, and with reference to his profession, he was a member of the Calhoun County Medical Society and the American Medical Association, being prominent in both organizations, and a contributor to numerous medical journals, as well as having made frequent addresses before the assembled societies of which he was a member.

Dr. Sands was twice married. His first wife was Miss Hilah Miller, and she died January 26, 1904. The doctor's second marriage occurred on April 23, 1905, when he married Miss Elizabeth Millspaugh of Evanston, Illinois. The bereaved widow still remains in the family home on West Van Buren street. She was born in Penn Yan, N. Y., and educated there, and is a graduate of Penn Yan Academy of Penn Yan, New York.

The sudden and untimely death of Dr. Sands was brought about as the result of an operation performed to relieve a mastoid affection of the middle ear. The doctor had suffered for some time from the trouble, but did not regard it as serious, but the symptoms became suddenly aggravated while on a trip to Detroit and he consulted a specialist. An immediate operation was pronounced necessary, and it was performed, but without avail, death coming within a few hours after the operation, and without his once regaining consciousness.

The sense of loss sustained by the people of Battle Creek will long be felt, and the love and esteem in which the doctor was generally held is aptly expressed in an editorial from the *Battle Creek News* of June 23d: "On the street, in the office, across the counter, they speak sadly of the death of Dr. Theodore E. Sands. In the home they discuss his going out as a personal loss. A good soldier went down in the thick of the fight and in the prime of his service, and they say it is a great pity that he might not have lived on to fight, for the victory that was in his blows and the inspiration that was in his example. They say, too, that it is a great pity that one who had battled so bravely and so often for others should have had so short a battle against such cruel odds, for himself. But they also say, upon reflection, that this crushing suddenness of his attack and defeat has its compensations, in that they will remember him as he was before he fell—the watchful guardian, the smiling friend, and the strong, resourceful fighter. Success operates many scales—but she has, after all, only one standard of values. She weighs fame and notoriety, prosperity and influence, but she writes her enduring certificate of value upon the record of useful life and helpful deeds. The good that men do lives after them, and this, on a local or a national scope, is success. The record room of success is in the heart, and the good physician and the kindly gentleman is recorded there."

Numerous tributes to the memory of the beloved doctor were paid at the funeral services, which were in charge of the Knights Templar of Battle Creek. Reverend B. Frank Taber, pastor of the First Baptist church, who was called home from the East to officiate at the funeral, said in part: "I pay a tribute to my friend and yours, whose

Hosted by Google

sudden and untimely death has brought to us a sense of great personal sorrow. Cicero said that friendship is the only thing concerning which all men agree. That a man is richer in his friendships than in his gold, and it is a sad day for any man when he loses a friend. The friend-making qualities of Dr. Sands and his genuine interest in people, his constant giving of himself for the good of others, and the fact that all over the city there are homes that feel the personal loss of his death, were evidences of his splendid manhood. There are some people whose acquaintance we shall wish to renew in the next world, and I count Theodore Sands as one of these."

Among others who spoke feelingly of the life and death of their friend was Edward C. Hinman, who said in brief: "Dr. Theodore E. Sands has passed away long before the allotted life of man. We have lost a true friend and Battle Creek has lost a good citizen, one who never knowingly did a wrong to another. He was gentle as a child, brave as a lion, patient and long suffering, and at the last, sacrificed his life for the benefit of his patients, for had he thought more of his health he would undoubtedly be alive today. He did not practice medicine for the money he could make from his profession, but rather for the pleasure he derived from helping others. I, among many others, owe my life to him. Our loss is great, and it seems the more unbearable when we consider that Dr. Sands should have been spared to us for many years, but we can console ourselves with the thought that if we are privileged to meet Dr. Sands in the life to come, death should have no fear for us, for he is with the blessed. The words of Abraham Lincoln apply to our friend: 'I do the very best I know how—the very best I can and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference.'

"The end brought Dr. Sands out right, and he died as he had lived; a true friend, a good samaritan, a devoted husband, loved by people who knew him well. Those who tried to malign him should repent as those who loved him mourn."

Franklin B. Spring. Twenty-five years ago, or in 1887, there was added to the roster of Calhoun county citizens the name of Franklin B. Spring, who located on the farm of 128 acres in Clarence township on which he has since resided. This he has developed into an attractive and comfortable rural home and has proved himself a citizen of character and enterprise who in making his own a valuable farm property has materially aided in the upbuilding of this section and therefore has added to the wealth of the whole county. He is a depositor in the State Bank at Springport.

New York is his native state and the date of his birth was May 7, 1838. Henry Spring, his father, was born in New York in June, 1803 and died in 1879 at the venerable age of 76 years. He was married in New York to Louisa Steadman, whose birth occurred in Massachusetts June 20, 1822, and whose father, Arnold Steadman, was a native and a life long resident of New York. Henry Spring removed with his family to Ohio in the earlier years of his career and there became the owner of a farm of fifty acres, which he successfully operated during his active years. His wife joined him in death in 1881. Of the six children that came to their union Franklin B. was the eldest and is one of three now living (1912). Henry Spring was a Whig in politics until after the organization of the Republican party and then gave his allegiance to the latter party. As a citizen he entered actively into the public life

Hosted by Google

of his community and held various township offices. Both he and his wife were devout members of the Methodist Episcopal church. His father, also named Henry, was a native of New York and was one of the very early settlers in Ohio.

Brought up on the Ohio farm, Franklin B. Spring obtained a practical common school education in the district schools of his locality and when of responsible age he chose as his occupation the one to which he had been reared, that of farming, to which he has now devoted over half a century of honest and fruitful toil. Allured by the promises which newer states offer in the way of opportunity he removed from Ohio to Wisconsin, but in 1887 returned eastward to Michigan and bought his present homestead in Calhoun county. He built a nice country residence and as the years have passed he has added to the home and grounds touches here and there which lend it an air of comfort and convenience.

In 1866 he wedded Sarah, daughter of George Myers, who was a native of Pennsylvania but had been a resident of Ohio many years prior to his death. A son and a daughter have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Spring, namely: Edgar B. and Elizabeth May, the latter of whom became the wife of Millard Cooper and now resides on a fine farm in Jackson county, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Spring are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Spring is affiliated with two of the oldest of fraternal orders, being a member of Springport Lodge No. 284 Free and Accepted Masons, of which he has passed all the "chairs," and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at the same place. He is a Republican in politics and in an official way has served as township supervisor three terms and also as a justice of the peace. Mr. Spring started in life a poor boy. Through good business acumen and untiring effort he has become a man of competence and well-to-do and has also assisted his children in making their start in life. It is such men that any community welcomes and values as a citizen.

HON. WILLIAM H. PORTER. Conspicuous among the leaders of the Calhoun county bar is Hon. William H. Porter, of Marshall, who is now serving as judge of probate, a position for which he is amply qualified, and which he is filling with credit to himself, and to the acceptance of all concerned. A son of Robert H. Porter, M. D., he was born, September 27, 1839, in Marengo township, Calhoun county, Michigan, and was there brought up.

Coming from Irish ancestry, Robert H. Porter, M. D., was born, in 1812, in New York state. As a young man he took up the study of medicine, and in 1836 migrated to Michigan, settling in Calhoun county, where he continued the practice of his profession until 1880, being one of the leading physicians of that part of the county for many years. Giving up active work in 1880, he lived retired until his death, in 1890. Dr. Porter married Mary Northrup Bull, who was born in Washington county, New York, near the Vermont line, a daughter of Henry Bull, a citizen of prominence and influence, active in business circles and in the political arena. She died in 1864, leaving six children, three sons and three daughters.

Laying a substantial foundation for his future education in the rural schools of his native district, William H. Porter entered Kalamazoo College at the age of fifteen years, and was there graduated with the class of 1859. In 1861, going to Ann Arbor, he entered the law department of the University of Michigan, which, in 1862, conferred upon him the degree of LL. B. Then passing a successful examination before a committee of which ex-Governor Felch was a member, Mr. Porter was

Hosted by Google

admitted to the Michigan bar. Coming to Marshall a few months later, he entered the office of H. A. & L. G. Noyes, well-known lawyers of this city. The junior member of the firm passed to the life beyond in April, 1864, and Mr. Porter succeeded to his position in the firm, and continued as a partner of Judge H. A. Noyes until 1877, when, owing to ill health, Judge Noyes retired from business. Since that time Mr. Porter has engaged in the practice of his profession alone, and through his untiring industry and thoroughness of application has won a place of distinction in the legal fraternity of Calhoun county. In the fall of 1908 he was elected judge of probate for a term of four years, his popularity with all parties being made evident at the polls, when he overcame an adverse Republican majority of twenty-seven hundred votes.

A stanch supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, Judge Porter has been a potent factor in municipal affairs for many years, having served as city attorney 12 terms, and as mayor of Marshall 5 terms. In 1884, he was elected prosecuting attorney, and for 30 years prior to July, 1911, was a member of the school board and its president for 5 terms. Fraternally, the Judge is a member of Saint Albans Lodge, No. 20, Free and Accepted Order of Masons, of which he was master two years; of Lafayette Chapter, No. 4, Royal Arch Masons, which he has served as high priest the past five years; of Marshall Commandery, No. 17, Knights Templar, of which he was for three years eminent commander; and is likewise a member of Knights of the Maccabees. Religiously, Mr. Porter is inclined to the Baptist persuasion but attends the Trinity church, and is a generous contributor towards its support.

Judge Porter married first, in 1866, Miss Frances E. Reed, of Jackson, Michigan. She died six months later, in early womanhood. Judge Porter married second, in 1869, Miss Jessie Chesebrough, who was born in Connecticut, of excellent New England stock. Talented and cultured, she was fitted when young for a professional career, and at the time of her marriage was teaching school in Marshall. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Porter, two of whom have passed to the higher life, Robert Burnham, who died at the age of seventeen years; and George W., who lived but six short months. Two daughters are living, namely: Jessie C., a graduate of the Marshall high school, of the University of Michigan, and who has taught in high schools in Port Huron, Marshall and Charlotte for nine years and who is now probate registrar in her father's office; and Anna Bernice, wife of George H. Miller, employing superintendent of a well-known Chicago firm, Sears, Roebuck & Company.

Samuel F. Dobbins. Clear-sighted, practical and capable, possessing an excellent knowledge of men, and a wonderful power of organization, Samuel F. Dobbins, president and general manager of the Marshall Furnace Company, is justly entitled to the high position which he has attained among the leading business men of Calhoun county. A son of the late Charles M. Dobbins, he was born, November 4, 1856, in Plymouth, Michigan. His paternal grandfather, Charles Dobbins, was for many years an honored resident of Victor, New York.

Brought up and educated in the Empire state, Charles M. Dobbins went to Canada as a young man, and was there a resident until after his marriage. Migrating to Michigan in 1841, he located in Plymouth, Wayne county, where he followed his trades of a blacksmith and wagon maker for many years. Later in life he bought land, and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, being engaged in general farming until his death, in 1889. He married, in Canada, Lucy A. Smith, a

Hosted by Google

native of New York. She survived him, passing away February 18, 1911, at the venerable age of ninety-five years.

The youngest of a family of 11 children, Samuel F. Dobbins attended first the public schools of Plymouth, Michigan, later continuing his studies at the Buffalo, New York, high school, and Bryant & Stratton's Business College. Thus equipped for his future career, Mr. Dobbins returned to Michigan, and for five years was bookkeeper for J. L. Dobbins, of Marshall. In 1881, in company with E. H. Grant, Mr. Dobbins began life on his own account as a manufacturer and seller of hot air furnaces. Succeeding well in his undertakings, he bought out his partner's interest in the business at the end of seven years, and continued his operations alone for a long time, building up an extensive and lucrative trade, which has extended into all parts of the Union. In June, 1908, Mr. Dobbins was instrumental in having the Marshall Furnace Company incorporated with a capital stock of $100,000, an amount that was increased in 1911 to $150,000. The company is under control of men of unquestioned ability integrity, its officers being as follows: Samuel F. Dobbins, president; Charles W. Dobbins, vice-president; Claud S. Stout, secretary and treasurer; and G. H. Dobbins, superintendent. This firm, which deals in mantels and metals as well as in furnaces, has acquired an extended reputation as manufacturers of the celebrated Wolverine Furnaces, which are adapted to all kinds of fuel, and are especially noted for their excellent heating powers, and for the economical use of fuel. These furnaces are sold in every city and town of prominence throughout the United States, the company being represented by live, wide-awake salesmen, who faithfully exploit the good qualities of these furnaces.

A Republican in his political affiliations, Mr. Dobbins takes an intelligent interest in the growth and prosperity of Marshall, and has filled various municipal offices most acceptably, having been mayor of the city one term, a member of the City Council three years, representing the First ward, and for nine years was a member of the Marshall Board of Education, a part of that time being its secretary. Fraternally Mr. Dobbins is a member of Saint Albans Lodge, No. 20, Free and Accepted Order of Masons; of Lafayette Chapter, No. 4, Royal Arch Masons; and of Marshall Commandery, No. 17, Knights Templar, of which he has been captain general for the past seven years. He is a regular attendant of the Presbyterian church, of which he is one of the trustees.

On February 14, 1883, Mr. Dobbins was united in marriage with Marie L. Mitchell, who was born in Brooklyn, New York, but was then living in Owosso, Michigan, where her father, William Mitchell, was engaged in business as a merchant. Mr. and Mrs. Dobbins have three children, namely: Dale M., Charles W., and S. Fremont.

ERNEST C. SAWDY. One of the best known and most highly esteemed residents of Marshall, Calhoun county, Ernest C. Sawdy has for upwards of a score of years been identified with the Michigan Central Railroad Company as agent at this place of its freight department, and is also distinguished for the honorable record which he has won as mayor of the city, an office which he is now filling for the fourth term. Progressive and enterprising, he is greatly interested in the welfare of Marshall, his achievements as a citizen and a public servant proving his loyalty to one of the best cities of Michigan. A son of the late Edwin Sawdy, he was born in Marshall, December 25, 1863, and has here spent his life.

A native of Pennsylvania, Edwin Sawdy grew to manhood in that

Hosted by Google

state, and there married Martha Pratt, who was likewise born and reared in the Keystone state. In 1850 he came with his wife to Michigan, locating in Marshall, where he soon found remunerative employment. In 1864, he enlisted for service in the Civil war, becoming a member of Company —, Fifteenth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and died while in the army. His wife survived him many years, dying in Marshall, Michigan, in 1909.

Acquiring his early education in Marshall, Ernest C. Sawdy left the high school while a young lad to enter the employ of the Michigan Central Railroad Company, finding a position in the Railroad Dining Hall, of which he was subsequently manager until it was abandoned. Entering the freight office of that road in 1890, Mr. Sawdy has since served in different capacities in that department, for many years having been its agent at Marshall. Competent, experienced, and intelligent, he can always be depended upon to fulfill his exacting duties to the letter, his thorough acquaintance with the freight business making his services of great value to the company.

Politically Mr. Sawdy supports the principles of the Democratic party, and his popularity with all classes of people is amply proved by his election, in 1909, as mayor of the city, and his subsequent re-election every term since.

Mr. Sawdy married, in 1888, Miss Elizabeth O'Leary, a native of Marshall, and they are the parents of two children, Donald S. and Harold.

FREDERICK G. FISHER, who has been a resident of Battle Creek since 1895, is a well known business man and citizen. For the past two years he has been manager at Kalamazoo of the branch office for Hulburd, Warren & Chandler, stock brokers and commission merchants of Chicago, one of the best known firms in the Chicago Stock Exchange, and affiliated by membership with the exchanges of other large cities.

Mr. Fisher is a native of Lind, Wisconsin, where he was born December 26, 1868. His family were among the pioneers of that vicinity, where his grandfather, Josiah Fisher, took up government land in the early days. His parents were Henry H. and Mary (Randall) Fisher. The mother who died in 1874, when Frederick was six years old, was of a family which came to Wisconsin from Erie, Pennsylvania, and she was married in Wisconsin. Henry H. Fisher, who now lives retired at Fresno, California, was for many years a substantial farmer in Wisconsin. During the war he served three and a half years in the Fourth Wisconsin Cavalry. Another member of his company was Hon. George W. Peck, who acquired fame as the author of "Peck's Bad Boy" series. Frederick G. is the oldest of the three children who grew up, and he has a brother, William H., of Beatrice, Nebraska, and a sister, Mrs. George M. Coone, of Red Cloud, Nebraska.

Mr. Fisher spent his early life in his native state, and attended high school at Waupaca. He has been in the grain and brokerage business since 1902, and for the last two years has had charge of the Kalamazoo branch office already mentioned. He is prominent in the social life of both cities. He is a member of Battle Creek Lodge No. 12, F. & A. M., and is also a Knight Templar, a thirty-second degree man, and a member of the Moslem Temple of the Shrine at Detroit. He is a member of the Park Club, the leading business men's and social organization of Kalamazoo.

His home in Battle Creek is at 41 Washington avenue North. He was married at Loyal, Wisconsin, September 9, 1896, to Miss Harriet E. Brasier, of that place. Mrs. Fisher is an active member of the Woman's League of Battle Creek and also connected with the Eastern Star chap-

Hosted by Google

ter in this city. She was born at Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, and is a graduate of the schools at Loyal, that state. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher are the parents of three children, all natives of this city:—Maud V., now in the high school; Ernestine L. and Gertrude G.

ELMER E. DOTY. The triumph of a genius, that is surely the title that should be applied to the story of the life of Elmer E. Doty. But it must not be understood that he was a genius in the ordinary sense of the word, that is he did not possess a wonderful gift by which with a comparatively small amount of effort on his part he was able to bring Fame to his feet. His genius might be called the Genius of Hard Work, for it was by determined effort, close application and a spirit that was never satisfied, but that always longed to do something better that he succeeded. He was born with a desire to do something worth while, and the circumstances of his life forced him to do his work a little better than others, for he was a photographer, and at first the keen competition which he had to meet, forced him to excel others in order to live. His life has been a courageous struggle, in which he always had some definite aim to work towards, and his story should be an inspiration to any young photographers who are ambitious, but who must often face disappointment and defeat. With the production of Mr. Doty's masterpiece "Gladys S," he sprang from an almost unknown photographer into the rank of the world's greatest craftsmen, and he is ever ready and eager to help others over the road along which he has toiled.

Elmer E. Doty was born on the 16th of July, 1873, in Steuben county, Indiana. When he was a child of three years, his parents moved into Greene county, Missouri, and there he lived until he was eight. This part of the country was wild and mountainous, and the wonders of Nature and of the busy life of her creatures in the fields and woods, left a strong impress on the mind of the child, and inculcated in him a love for the open which he still clings to. He was educated in the common schools of Indiana, and then entered Battle Creek College. He had always been very fond of sketching and drawing and when he was seventeen, he took up crayon enlarging with a view to making something out of it. Part of his school expenses were paid in this way, but better than that, his work came to the notice of an engraving and printing house in the city, and they were so impressed by the quality of the work that they sent for the young artist and induced him to give up his college work and devote himself to pendrawing for reproduction and to wood engraving. He was eminently successful and remained with this house for four years, though he was not employed as an engraver during all of this time. When the panic of 1893 made engraving work hard to find, the house took him into the office and the experience that he gained in business methods has since proved to be very valuable to him.

It was about this time that he became interested in photography, though at first only in an amateur way. After a time although he had risen to a very good position, he decided that photography was too interesting to dabble in, and went into the work seriously. Early in 1897 he opened his first studio, or as it was then called, gallery, at Ashley, Indiana. He had no capital and no practical experience, and in addition to these drawbacks, he had a wife and two small children, who though they were very far from being drawbacks, yet had to be provided for. Conservative people would call him a fool, but it takes nerve to succeed in these days, and by reading and experimenting he managed to produce some work that was fairly good for those days. Meanwhile with the help of his wife he managed to scrape along, but business was

Hosted by Google

mighty slim. In the same block with his gallery were the offices of a doctor, a dentist and a lawyer, all just starting out in their various professions, and the four were known all over town as "The Hungry Quartette." The four of them very likely did not have business enough for one man, and most of their time was spent on the back veranda of the block, shooting at rats with a target rifle. When the animals had become exterminated for the time being, the doctor contributed pill boxes which were tossed up for targets.

After a year in Ashley, Mr. Doty came back to Battle Creek and opened up the Werstein studio. He was only employed on a salary to run this business, and although the financial backing was ample, yet he was not satisfied with the position, and when an opportunity was offered by which he could learn photo engraving he was glad to resign from the studio. He began his new work as an apprentice at $5.00 a week but owing to his previous knowledge and to his natural ability he advanced rapidly and after about a year he was earning a good living. After serving his apprenticeship he continued to work for the house and remained with them for six years, getting a valuable experience in practically every branch of commercial work. He credits his rapid progress since leaving there to the thorough drill in the technical side of his work that he there received. He was now no longer a servant to his tools, but was free to devote himself to the artistic side of his work.

Upon leaving this house he came to Belding, Michigan, and here after setting his business on a firm financial footing, he began to look about him and see what other men in his profession were doing. The first convention that he attended was the Toledo meeting of the Ohio-Michigan Photographers Association, to which he took his best work. Out of a possible one hundred per cent his work received twenty-five, but he awoke to the fact that some of the men of the organization were doing work that he came no where near touching, so he went back home with a mind made up to show them that he too could do something worth while. For a year he did nothing but work, experiment and study, and at the end of that time he went to the Detroit meeting and received the highest per cent given by the Ohio-Michigan Photographers Association, for that year. The first national convention which he attended was one held at Niagara Falls, and while he was there his ambition was given further impetus by the announcement of the diamond medal which was to be given by the Daguerre Memorial Institute, and he made up his mind to win that medal if it was within his power. When he reached home he ordered the best authority on composition, lighting and kindred subjects, together with all the reproductions of the Old Masters which he did not already own, and once more set to work with a definite end in view.

The result of this work was the picture "Gladys S," and it received the diamond medal of honor, in July, 1907. The picture which is valued at $500, hangs in the salon of the Daguerre Memorial Institute. It is eight by ten inches in size and represents a young girl, whose soft dusky hair is crowned by a drooping hat. The high artistic merit of the picture lies in the lights and shadows, in the beauty of the lines of the figure, and the grace and ease of the pose. There is nothing strained about it; it is quite simple and free from affectation, but in this very simplicity lies the high art of its creator, for simplicity is the most difficult and the most exquisite of all art. The jury who awarded the medal to this picture said: "In the Doty picture the Daguerre Memorial Institute comes into possession of the most artistic photograph we have ever seen."

In October of 1910, Mr. Doty returned to Battle Creek, and opened a studio, at 42 North Washington avenue. Here he is kept very busy,

Hosted by Google

although his patrons are of the class which really ask artistic work, and as a rule this is not a large class.

Besides his purely photographic portraiture he also does work in oil and water color, and expects in the future to make this a prominent feature of his business.

Mr. Doty has won seventeen gold medals from different societies in all parts of the world since 1907, among them being the gold medal, which was the world's highest honor, given at the International Photographers Exposition, held in Dresden, Germany, in 1910. Mr. Doty is a member of all the American societies of his profession, and he has been made an honorary member by many. It is a great honor to Battle Creek to possess such an artist, and it is to be hoped that she values him at his true worth, for other cities would be only too glad to claim him as one of their citizens.

JAMES L. DOBBINS, of Marshall, Michigan, is a native of the old Keystone state, born in Jefferson county, December 2, 1833. He is the son of Joab and Elizabeth (Guyant) Dobbins. Joab Dobbins married Elizabeth Guyant, daughter of William Guyant, a native of Scotland, and his wife, Anna (Butts) Guyant, who was born in Victor, New York, July 15, 1805. Three children were born to Joab and Elizabeth (Guyant) Dobbins, of which number James L. is the eldest. Emily A., the second born, married S. W. Dunning and makes her home in Allegan, Michigan, while Helen M., unmarried, lives in Marshall. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Dobbins lived for some years in Pennsylvania and there the father and husband was engaged as a dealer in merchandise, and after their removal to Michigan in 1842 or thereabouts, he was occupied for some time as a boot and shoe dealer in Battle Creek. He removed from that city to Marshall, where he passed his remaining days and died in this city on March 27, 1884, his faithful wife having preceded him some months previously, the date of her death being December 11, 1883.

James L. Dobbins was but nine years old when his parents came to Michigan, and in this state he grew up and completed the education which had barely begun when they removed from their eastern home. He was attending the high school at Battle Creek when his parents removed to Marshall and he remained in the former city about three years, in that time studying architecture and building. He then came to Marshall where he took up contracting and building, combining with that occupation the manufacture of furniture on a small scale. He carried on this business until 1870, running a planing mill and furniture manufactory, and doing an exclusive wholesale business.

Among the prominent buildings which Mr. Dobbins erected may be mentioned the Peter Block, Academy of Music, old Academy of Music, now used as a furniture store, the Methodist Episcopal church, and many of the finest residences in the city. After entering into partnership with Mr. Phelps, Mr. Dobbins still conducted his mill and factory operations until May, 1872, when they were destroyed by fire and he suffered a heavy financial loss. He finally turned his attention entirely to the hot air furnace business. His partner in the business was William M. Phelps, patentee of the Tubular Furnace, and in a few years he found it expedient to purchase the interest of Mr. Phelps. He conducted the business on his own responsibility and built up an amazing patronage in his line. He dealt in furnace fixtures, registers and ventilators, and manufactured all kinds of wood and coal furnaces under the Phelps patent. These furnaces were shipped to various points, the principal trade outside the state of Michigan being in Ohio, Indiana

Hosted by Google

and Wisconsin. From three to five men were kept on the road between March and December in the interests of the business.

On May 3, 1880, Mr. Dobbins was united in marriage with Mrs. Emma Wagner, the widow of James Wagner. She at one time made her home in Canandaigua, New York, and is the daughter of Bennett and Hannah Tiffany. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Dobbins, one of whom died in infancy, Bertha E. surviving.

Mr. Dobbins has accumulated a goodly bit of real estate in Marshall, in addition to his handsome home and his business property. He has been identified with numerous financial and industrial enterprises in the city of his home in the years of his residence here, and has a well established reputation for stability and progressiveness. He is a director of the First National Bank of Marshall and of the Central National Bank of Ellsworth, Kansas. Fraternally, Mr. Dobbins has membership in Marshall Lodge No. 20, F. &. A. M. and in the chapter and commandery.

WILL A. KRENERICK. Energetic and able men, whether they elect to be identified with the professional, commercial or industrial worlds, are always the most highly valued citizens of any community, for they seldom fail in personal accomplishment and thereby become factors of importance in the general public progress. The farming interests of Calhoun county have a prominent representative in the person of Will A. Krenerick, a native and now treasurer of Clarence township, whose father William Krenerick and grandfather Adam Krenerick were in their times both numbered among the most substantial and influential citizens of that community. Mr. Krenerick inherited the fine property he now owns but throughout his business career he has displayed that acumen and judgment which mark him in his own right a man of strong business ability.

Born October 10, 1877, on the farm on which he now resides, he here grew to manhood and received his earlier education in the local district schools. Later he was a student in the business department of Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana, and also completed the normal course in the state normal. After student days were over he took charge of his father's farm and at the latter's death heired the estate. There are 204 acres in the property and besides general farming he feeds a good many cattle and hogs. The family became established in Clarence township with the removal of Adam and Henrietta (Hundleberger) Krenerick, the grandparents of Will A., from Ohio to Calhoun county, Michigan about 1853. Here Adam Krenerick bought a farm from a Mr. Drew, who had taken the land up from the government, and became one of the most prosperous and prominent men of this vicinity, owning several hundred acres at the time of his retirement and removed to Albion some fifteen years before his death. He passed away in that city in 1906 at the advanced age of ninety-three years. His wife preceded him in death a number of years, her demise having occurred in 1890 when seventy-three years of age. Five children came to their union, one of whom died in infancy. The other four were Adam, deceased; Mrs. Caroline Sheek, of Albion; William, deceased; and Mrs. Emeline Roper, also a resident of Albion.

The late William Krenerick, the fourth in this family in order of birth and the father of our subject, was born in Ohio on January 2, 1844, and came to Michigan with his parents as a lad of nine years. Here he grew to man's estate and received his education in the district schools and in the high school at Marshall, Michigan. He took up independent activity as a carpenter but only followed the trade four years

Hosted by Google

and then returned to his father's farm, the agricultural vocation thereafter claiming his attention until 1901. He owned the farm of 204 acres which at his death passed to his son Will. Seriously troubled with asthma all of his life, he went twice to Colorado and once to Florida in search of relief from the disease. He passed to the life beyond on June 30, 1908, at Albion, a citizen held in high esteem. In Michigan, in 1872, he was united in marriage to Minnie Kline, who was born in Ohio July 2, 1855. A daughter and a son blessed this union; Mary, now Mrs. Daniel Holland, of Denver, Colorado, and Will A. Krenerick of this review. The senior Mr. Krenerick was a Democrat and had served as clerk of Clarence township. In religion he was a Lutheran, the faith in which he was reared, and fraternally he affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

In 1902 was solemnized the marriage of Will A. Krenerick and Miss Orah Reed, daughter of Alfred and Alma Reed, who are now living in Albion and were pioneer settlers in Sheridan township of Calhoun county. Mr. and Mrs. Krenerick have one daughter, Vera Lucile. In politics Mr. Krenerick is a Progressive Democrat and is now serving his second term as treasurer of Clarence township and has also served on the board of reviews. His fraternal connections are as a member of the Patrons of Husbandry.

CHARLES C. GREEN was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, January 15, 1876. He is the son of James and Cornelia (Kellogg) Green, both of whom are mentioned at length elsewhere in this biographical work. Charles C. Green was the only child of his parents, and he passed his boyhood and youth in regular attendance at the public school of his home town. He was graduated from the Battle Creek high school with the class of 1894, immediately following which he entered the University of Michigan, graduating from the literary department of that institution in 1898 and from the law department the following year.

Following his university course, he began the practice of law in Battle Creek, conducting a lucrative and constantly growing practice between the years of 1899 and 1905, after which he became connected with the Advance Thresher Company as a director of the company and a member of the executive committee, as well as acting as assistant treasurer of the company. In October, 1911, he, together with the other stockholders, sold out his interest in the Advance Company to The M. Rumley Company.

Mr. Green was mayor of Battle Creek from April, 1907, to a corresponding time in 1909, his tenure of office being marked by a number of changes consistent with the advancement of the best interests of the city. He is a Republican in his political faith and adherence and has been active and enthusiastic for the advancement of the party at all times. Mr. Green is prominent in business circles of his city, being at the present time president of The Citizens Electric Company, and president of The City Bank of Battle Creek. He is affiliated with numerous fraternal societies, being a member of the Alpha Delta Phi, since his college days. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and of the Athelstan Club. He is a member of the Independent Congregational church and is active and interested in the work of that body.

On November 20, 1901, Mr. Green married Miss Ella Louise Williams, the daughter of Herbert R. Williams of Battle Creek, ex-sheriff of the county. Mrs. Green was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and received her education in Battle Creek, being a graduate of the Battle Creek high

Hosted by Google

school of the class of 1896. Mr. Green is the only living representative of his father's family in this country today.

REV. FATHER JAMES CAHALAN. A man of earnest convictions, strong character, and deep consecration, Rev. Father James Cahalan, rector of Saint Mary's Catholic Church, at Marshall, is a faithful and tireless worker in the cause of the faith, and a firm friend and a wise counselor to all who go to him for advice and consolation. He was born in March, 1870, in Hubbardston, Ionia county, Michigan, a son of John and Mary (Needham) Cahalan. His father, a native of Ireland, immigrated to America when young, and having bought land in Ionia county, Michigan, erected a good set of buildings, and was there for many years successfully employed in general farming.

Obtaining his preliminary education in the rural schools of his native district, James Cahalan subsequently continued his studies at Saint Francis' Seminary, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he spent a year. Going then to Ontario, Canada, he attended Assumption College for a time, after which he entered Saint Mary's Seminary, in Baltimore, Maryland, where he was graduated in 1895. On June 20, 1895, he was ordained to the ministry, and immediately assumed charge of St. Joseph's Church at Trenton, Michigan. Transferred to Saint Anthony's Church, at Hillsdale, Michigan, Father Cahalan remained there nine years doing most efficient and satisfactory work. Accepting the pastorate of Saint Mary's Church, in Marshall, in 1908, he has here held the position since, and has led a busy and useful life, administering wisely to the spiritual needs of his large congregation, which embraces two hundred families, while in the school, which is under his control, there are one hundred and thirty-five pupils enrolled.

The church edifice, which is a substantial brick structure, reflects credit upon the loyal men and women of the parish who contributed so generously towards the support of their church. A brief history of the church appears on another page of this volume.

IRA A. BECK. Among those who have gained distinctive prestige as representative members of the bar of Calhoun county is Ira A. Beck, who is established in the successful practice of his profession in the city of Battle Creek, with offices in suite 206, Post Building. Recognition of his ability and success is the more pleasing by reason of the fact that he is a native son of the fine old Wolverine state and that he is a scion of one of its sterling old families.

Mr. Beck was born at Charlotte, the judicial center of Eaton county, Michigan, on the 21st of September, 1878, and is the oldest of the five children of John T. and Ella (Foster) Beck, the former a native of New York and the latter of Michigan. John T. Beck was long numbered among the representative exponents of the agricultural industry in Eaton county and commands secure place in popular confidence and esteem. He is now living virtually retired and he and his wife have an attractive home in the city of Charlotte. He is a stalwart Republican in his political adherency. As already stated, the subject of this review is the eldest of their five children: Charles H., Mary and Ruby are residents of Detroit and Pearl remains at the parental home.

Ira A. Beck is indebted to the public schools of his native city for his early educational discipline and has the distinction of having been the youngest person ever graduated in the Charlotte high school, the curriculum of which he completed as a member of the class of June, 1893, so that he was but 14 years of age at the time of his graduation. After leaving the high school Mr. Beck began reading law under the effective

Hosted by Google

preceptorship of Judge Horace S. Maynard, one of the leading members of the bar of Eaton county, and was admitted to the bar of his native state in 1899, shortly after attaining to his legal majority. He served as register of the probate court of Eaton county, a position to which he had been appointed in 1896 and of which he continued the incumbent until 1901. His initial work in his profession was done in his native city, where he was for a brief interval associated in partnership relations with his honored preceptor, Judge Maynard. In 1901 he went to the city of Chicago and entered the offices of the leading and influential law firm of Flower, Smith & Musgrave, with which he remained until the 1st of January, 1904, his connection with this representative firm in the great western metropolis having afforded him especially wide and varied experience along professional lines.

Mr. Beck made consistent observance of the advent of the new year of 1904 by coming to Battle Creek, where he entered into a professional partnership with Arthur B. Williams, with whom he was associated in active general practice for the ensuing five years, under the firm name of Williams & Beck. The alliance was then dissolved and since that time Mr. Beck has been engaged in individual practice, with a clientage of representative order. He has built up a substantial professional business and has gained prestige as a strong and resourceful attorney, as well as a counselor well fortified in technical knowledge and mature judgment. In politics Mr. Beck accords unfaltering allegiance to the Republican party and he has given effective service in behalf of its principles and policies. He is affiliated with Battle Creek Lodge, No. 12, Free & Accepted Masons, of which he is senior warden in 1912; with Battle Creek Chapter, No. 19, Royal Arch Masons; with Battle Creek Commandery, No. 33, Knights Templar, of which he is serving as generalissimo at the time of this writing; with De Witt Clinton Consistory of Grand Rapids and with Saladin Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, in the city of Grand Rapids. He also holds membership in the Battle Creek lodges of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks and the Knights of Pythias, and is identified with the Athelstan, Country and Community Clubs, all representative social organizations of the metropolis of Calhoun county. He and his wife attend and support the Independent Congregational church in their home city and both are popular factors in the social activities of the community, their home, at 69 Garrison avenue, being a center of hospitality.

On the 21st of March, 1906, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Beck to Miss Mildred Phillips, who was born and reared in Battle Creek and who is a daughter of Dr. Albanus M. Phillips, individually represented on other pages of this work. Mr. and Mrs. Beck have two children.—Margaret and Dorothy.

Dr. Albanus M. Phillips. At the time of his retirement from active practice, in 1905, Dr. Phillips was the oldest representative of the dental profession in the city of Battle Creek, in the matter of years of continuous practice in the metropolis of Calhoun county, where he successfully followed the work of his chosen vocation for nearly forty years, during which entire period he continuously occupied the offices in the Eldred block, at the corner of South Jefferson avenue and East Main street. He has long held prestige as one of the skilled and successful exponents of the dental surgery in Calhoun county and he controlled a large and representative practice until the time of his retirement. He is well known throughout the county and commands secure place in the confidence and esteem of its people. As one of the

Hosted by Google

pioneer dentists and sterling citizens of this section of the state he is eminently entitled to recognition in this publication.

Dr. Albanus Moulton Phillips is a scion of one of the honored pioneer families of the historic old Western Reserve of Ohio and is also a representative of families that were founded in New England in the colonial era of our national history. He was born in Bainbridge township, Geauga county, Ohio, on the 19th of November, 1844, and is a son of William S. and Sarah (Richardson) Phillips, both of whom were born and reared in North Adams, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, where their marriage was solemnized. In 1832 they came to the West and established their home in Geauga county, Ohio; where the father became a substantial farmer and influential citizen. He was a man of strong individuality and impregnable integrity and his life was one of earnest and effective industry. He continued to reside on the old homestead farm until the death of his loved and devoted wife, and he himself was a resident of Chagrin Falls, Cuyahoga county, Ohio, during the closing days of his long and useful life, his remains being interred beside those of his wife in the old home township in Geauga county. In politics he was originally a Whig and later a Republican. Of the three sons and three daughters all are living except the eldest son, Nelson H., who continued his residence in Ohio until his death; Marie is the wife of Mr. Robbins, a prosperous farmer of Battle Creek township, Calhoun county, Michigan; Anna L. is the wife of Mr. Reed, of Chagrin Falls, Ohio; Dr. Albanus M., of this review, was the next in order of birth; Julia is the wife of Mr. Lake, of Chagrin Falls, Ohio; and William R. resides in the suburbs of Cincinnati, Ohio.

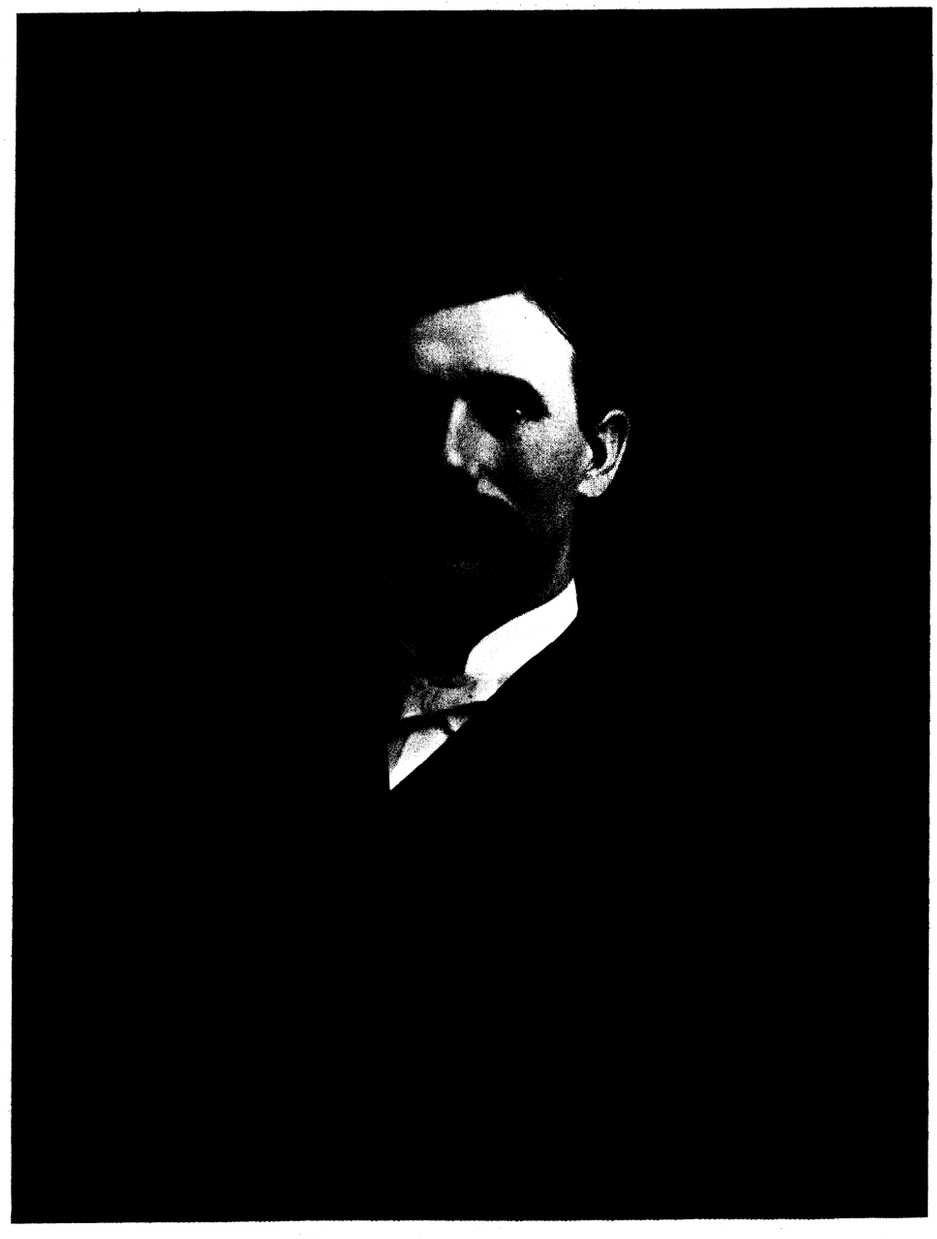
Dr. Phillips was reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm and after availing himself of the advantages of the district schools of the locality and period he pursued higher studies in Chester Seminary. His preliminary training for the work of his chosen profession was secured in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, under the preceptorship of Dr. H. H. Newton, one of the leading practitioners of that city. After thoroughly learning the scientific and practical details of his profession Dr. Phillips established himself in practice, at Chagrin Falls, Ohio, where he remained about five years, at the expiration of which, on the 29th of September, 1869, he came to Battle Creek and opened an office in the Eldred building. There he continued in active practice, with a large and appreciative clientage, during the long period of thirty-eight years, at the expiration of which he felt himself entitled to release from active application and retired from practice. He is now enjoying the well earned rewards of former years of earnest endeavor and he and his wife have a host of loyal and valued friends in the community that has so long represented their home.

As a citizen Dr. Phillips has always been loyal and public-spirited and while he has never manifested any desire for political preferment he has been found continuously aligned as a stalwart supporter of the principles and policies of the Republican party. He is affiliated with Battle Creek Lodge, No. 35, Knights of Pythias.

At the home of the bride's parents, in Battle Creek township, this county, on the 24th of September, 1874, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Phillips to Miss Adella Beach, who was born and reared in that township and who completed her education in the Kalamazoo Female College. Mrs. Phillips is a daughter of Morgan G. Beach, who long maintained his home in Battle Creek township, where he was a representative agriculturist and highly honored citizen. He died a number of years ago and his venerable widow now resides in the city of Battle Creek. Dr. and Mrs. Phillips have one daughter, Mildred P., wife of

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



W. S. Kurt—

Hosted by Google

Ira A. Beck, who is one of the representative young attorneys of Battle Creek and who is individually mentioned elsewhere in this volume.

WALTER S. KEET. One of Battle Creek's most representative and public-spirited citizens is Walter S. Keet, who is without doubt, one of the most thoroughly up-to-date and scientific undertakers and funeral directors in the state of Michigan. This honored citizen has maintained his residence in this city since 1878, and in the ensuing period has by no means played a passive part in the wonderful progress and growth enjoyed by Battle Creek. In his particular field of endeavor he has kept pace with the improvement which has characterized the age, and the methods employed by him are at once modern, scientific and dignified.

Mr. Keet was born in Waterloo, New York, October 16, 1857, and is of English origin, his parents, George and Maris (Beadle) Keet, having been born in "the right little, tight little Island." The father's birthplace was Richmond, a part of the great city of London, and the date of his nativity October 10, 1810. There he learned his trade of carpenter and mill wright and there married Miss Beadle, who had been born in London in 1835. In course of time the elder Mr. Keet decided to sever old associations with his native land and to come to America in quest of its much-vaunted opportunities for himself and his family. They located in Waterloo, New York, where he engaged in business for a number of years and where he became prominent and influential in public affairs. He died on July 14, 1889, but his good wife preceded him to the Great Beyond by many years, her demise occurring in 1859, when Walter, the subject was but one year old. The elder Mr. Keet served at one time as township assessor and he and his wife were devout communicants of the Episcopal church.

Walter S. Keet was the youngest member of a family of thirteen children. He received his education in the schools of Waterloo, New York, and under his father's tutelage learned the trades of carpenter and millwright. In December, 1878, about the time of the attainment of his majority, he came to Battle Creek and here became engaged at work in his trade in the employ of Nichols & Shepard, with whom he remained for seven years. At the end of that time he entered upon an independent career as a carpenter and builder and he followed that business until 1890, when he joined the firm of Baker & Caldwell, undertakers of Battle Creek, with whom he was associated for four years. He next purchased a stock of furniture and undertaking goods from J. H. Mykins, of West Main street, and at that location he remained successfully engaged in business for some two years. After the dissolution of the firm of Baker & Caldwell, Mr. Keet joined the former gentleman in a partnership under the firm name of Baker & Keet, which enterprise was inaugurated March 1, 1897. These gentlemen continued in the furniture and undertaking business until the spring of 1903, when they closed out the furniture business in order to devote their entire time to that of undertaking, that branch of their establishment having in its business grown to extensive proportions—so extensive, in fact, that it easily ranked as first in this part of the state of Michigan. This partnership was maintained until June 17, 1903, when Mr. Keet, purchased the interest of Mr. Baker and has ever since continued alone in this large business. On January 1, 1904, he opened very extensive and modern undertaking parlors at 80 East Main street, occupying the building erected for the Baptist parsonage by Charles Willard in memory of his sister, Laura Harris Willard,—an ideal location.

Mr. Keet is a member of the State Association of Funeral Directors & Embalmers and has served as treasurer of the same.

Hosted by Google

On September 28, 1881, Mr. Keet laid the foundations of a happy household and congenial life companionship by his union to Miss Angie L. Davis, daughter of Gilbert and Susannah L. (Blanchard) Davis. A good many years ago, Mr. Davis, with his family, removed from Lockport, New York, to this city, and here engaged in his occupation as a stone mason, he having been connected with the construction of many of the early buildings of Battle Creek, when the municipality was in its youth. This good citizen was a veteran of the Civil war, having served valiantly in the dark days of the '60s as a member of the First Michigan Sharp Shooters, which organization was among the first to go to the front. Both he and his wife are now deceased. Mrs. Keet being the only surviving member of the family. Mr. and Mrs. Keet share their attractive household with one daughter, Marjorie. All three are members of the Maple Street Methodist Episcopal church, in whose work Mr. Keet is active.

Mr. Keet is a popular and prominent lodge man, belonging to Battle Creek Lodge, No. 29, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, No. 911, Battle Creek Lodge, No. 12, A. F. & A. M., and being a charter member of the Battle Creek Lodge, No. 35, Knights of Pythias, of which he is past chancellor and of which fraternity he has been a representative in the Grand Lodge.

In the matter of political conviction Mr. Keet is a Republican. He has taken particular interests in school affairs and in the school system and its possibilities of improvement. In September 1897, he was elected a member of the school board and is now president of the body. During his first term as member of the board, school building No. 5 was erected. He has taken an active stand in favor of needed improvements and because of his progressiveness in this line, he was re-elected in 1900 for a second term of three years. In 1903 he was again re-elected and during that term school building No. 2 was enlarged by the addition of twelve rooms, making it a sixteen room building. Subsequently No. 10 has been erected and contains ten rooms, and the new high school has been built. Mr. Keet advocates paying the teachers such salaries that the best services can be secured, it being his conviction that in the important matter of education the best is none too good. In all matters he demonstrates that public spirit which makes him so good a citizen, while in business circles he is a leader. He has been connected with the board of education for fifteen years of his thirty-three in Battle Creek.

Mr. Keet has the distinction of being the first undertaker in Battle Creek to establish an exclusive undertaking concern. He is decidedly an innovator and owned the first ambulance in the city.

JUDSON C. PEEK. Well worthy of representation in this volume is Judson C. Peek, one of the leading farmers of Clarence township, who is highly regarded in his community both for his ability in a business way and as a citizen of character and worth.

A son of Egbert Peek, he was born in Ontario county, New York, on September 16, 1861. He has no recollections of his birth state, however, as he was but three years old when his parents came to Michigan in 1864 and located in Eaton Rapids. Orphaned of his father when but a child, he was thereafter largely dependent upon his own resources in making his way in life and every dollar's worth of property he has acquired has come to him as a result of his own efforts. He received a common school education and when he began life for himself he chose farming as his occupation and business. He first became an

Hosted by Google

independent owner of land in 1900 when he bought sixty acres in Clarence township, Calhoun county. This he cleared and provided with the necessary farm buildings and then bought forty acres more. Another subsequent purchase has brought his holdings up to 120 acres of good fertile land, and as a husbandman he has shown that skill and practical knowledge of agriculture which have made his farming operations result in both pleasure and profit. His political views are those of the Republican party, and his fraternal associations are as a member of Springport Lodge No. 131, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Egbert Peek, the father of Judson C., was born in New York, and died in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, on March 20, 1869. He was married in his native state to Mary A. Enos and with his wife and family removed to Eaton Rapids in 1864. A master workman in his trade of moulder and blacksmith, he was thus employed in Eaton Rapids until his death, at which time he left a fair estate. He was a staunch Democrat and was an active and prominent worker in behalf of his party in Eaton county. His father was Vanslyke Peek, who spent his entire life in his native state of New York. To Egbert Peek and wife were born six children, of whom Judson C. was fifth in order of birth. Two daughters, Mrs. James M. Gifford and Mrs. Daniel C. Allen, are also residents of Clarence township, Calhoun county. Mrs. Peek is still living and resides with her son Judson. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

NEWTON PERRY CASE, for many years a resident of Calhoun county, is a native of Ohio, born in Huron county, July 11, 1830. He is the son of Chauncey and Paulina (Perry) Case, both natives of Connecticut, who were among the early settlers of Huron county, Ohio. Both parents passed the remainder of their lives in that state, where the father was a prosperous farmer in Huron county.

Their son, Newton Perry Case, acquired his early education in the public schools, and after leaving school in his teens, he spent seven years on the home farm, then removing to LaPorte, Indiana. For a time he was employed on the Lake Shore railroad as fireman, after which, he went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and then to Muskegon, Michigan, where he was employed by a lumbering firm in the pine woods for several months. His next move took him to Calhoun county, Michigan, where he purchased eighty acres of land in Marshall township and engaged in general farming and stock raising. This farm is in an excellent state of development and cultivation and has good buildings. It is now occupied by Mr. Newton Case's son, Liva, while Mr. Case resides on a smaller place of fifteen acres of choice land, upon which he has reared a substantial brick dwelling and suitable out-buildings. This little farm is devoted to pasture land and small farming on a portion which Mr. Case has leased, and here he is passing his declining years in well deserved comfort, and in a manner retired from active farm life.

In 1860 Mr. Case married Miss Jane Brown, a native of Ohio where she was reared and passed her girlhood days. To them were born three children: Liva, the eldest, is living on the home farm, as mentioned above; Clara is a seamstress in Marshall and Frank P. is engaged in business in Marshall.

Mr. Case has taken an active part in the politics of his community, but has never been a candidate for office or in any way ambitious for honors in that way, although he has served for fourteen years as a member of the school board, doing good and efficient work for the cause of education in Marshall township. He is a member of the Baptist church and has always taken a hearty interest in the work of the

Hosted by Google

church, and for a time was a teacher of the bible class. Altogether, he is one of the solid and reliable men of the village, and his influence has ever been a power for good in his community.

THOMAS L. CRONIN. A man of sterling integrity and ability, the late Thomas L. Cronin was for many years one of foremost merchants of Marshall, but his prosperity instead of being accidental was the legitimate result of years of persevering industry, combined with an amount of good sense and sound judgment that would have commanded success in any business. A life-long resident of Calhoun county, he was born, February 12, 1842, in Marshall, and here, on May 14, 1909, he died, his death being a loss to the entire community, as well as to his immediate family. His parents, Jeremiah and Elizabeth (Lee) Cronin, natives of New York state, came to Michigan in 1836, ere it assumed the garb of statehood, locating in Marshall, where they reared their family of nine children, of whom Thomas L. was the youngest child, and was also the last survivor of the family, all of whom died very suddenly, passing out of the world with scarce any warning. The subject was an able business man, and founder of the large mercantile business now carried on by Harry L. Cronin.

Acquiring a substantial education in the public schools, Thomas L. Cronin became familiar with the details of mercantile trade while serving as a clerk under his older brother, Jeremiah Cronin, Jr., founder of the S. E. Cronin Company, of Marshall, who was then conducting a general store in Exchange street, on the present site of George Hindenach's blacksmith's shop, which was then in the very heart of the business portion of the city. In November, 1869, in company with another brother, Henry Cronin, embarked in business on his own account, opening a store in the Stuart block, where Joseph Cunningham is now located. The new firm of Cronin Brothers prospered, and in 1876 built the brick block at the corner of State and Jefferson streets, where the brothers subsequently continued in business as long as they lived. Mr. Cronin was a member of the first board of directors of the Commercial Savings Bank, and so remained until his death, and, with W. J. Dibble, was one of its original promoters.

On December 4, 1876, Mr. Cronin was united in marriage with Miss Orpha Cary, and of their union two sons and one daughter were born, namely: Jessie, Harry L., of whom a brief sketch may be found elsewhere in this volume; and Thomas L., Jr. Of a deeply sympathetic and charitable nature, Mr. Cronin was ever animated by the broadest spirit of humanitarianism, and was always ready to lend aid to the sorrowful or needy, as many an individual and family can testify. Honest and upright in all of his dealings, Mr. Cronin gained the confidence and esteem of the people, and built up not only a large and lucrative patronage, but won the sincere friendship of a large circle of people.

HARRY L. CRONIN. Although yet a young man, Harry L. Cronin has already attained a position of prominence and influence among the keen-sighted, progressive business men of Marshall, where he is prosperously engaged in mercantile pursuits, having succeeded to the trade first established by his father and uncle, Thomas L. and Henry M., which was afterward continued by Thomas L. Cronin, Harry L. Cronin's father. A brief biography of the father appears on another page of this work.

Obtaining the rudiments of his education in the Marshall schools, Harry L. Cronin took the commercial course of study in the Ypsilanti

Hosted by Google

Business School, there fitting himself for a business career. After his graduation from that institution, he was a clerk in the store which he now owns and occupies until the death of his father, in May, 1909. He then assumed charge of the store, and in addition to settling his father's estate has since continued the business in a manner satisfactory to all concerned, his establishment, in which he carries a large line of selected groceries, being centrally located on State street, in a two-story brick building, twenty-two feet by eighty feet. Mr. Cronin is also financially interested in various other substantial enterprises, being a stockholder of the Commercial Savings Bank; of the Burrough & Blood Buggy Company; of the Lambert Machine Company; of the Citizens' Telephone Company; and of the Athwood Steel Company of Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Cronin owns two automobiles, one being employed in his business for delivery purposes, the other being a five-passenger car which he uses for pleasure.

Mr. Cronin married, November 9, 1902, Miss Myrtle DeLong, of Kingfisher, Oklahoma, and they have one son, Harry L. Cronin, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Cronin, who have a cozy residence at 214 North Madison street, are members of the Episcopal Church, and take an active part in the social affairs of Marshall.

WALTER WATERS WOOLNOUGH. The name of Walter Waters Woolnough is closely allied with the history of Battle Creek which for fifty-nine years he aided in upbuilding by personal endeavor and a facile pen, dying February 2d, 1904, at the age of 83 years. At the time of his demise he was the dean of Michigan journalists.

Mr. Woolnough was born in Bungay, Suffolk county, England, July 10th, 1821. Coming to this country with his parents when a lad of eleven years, he acquired a thorough knowledge of the art of printing in Rochester, New York, working under the apprentice customs of that time. He came west to embark in business for himself, settling in Battle Creek in 1845, where he started the first newspaper printed in the city, *The Western Citizen.* In 1846 he was editor and publisher of *The Michigan Tribune* which went out of existence two years later for want of patronage.

In 1852 Mr. Woolnough became editor and publisher of the *Battle Creek Journal,* started the previous year, and which is now a leading local publication, thus making him the founder not only of the first newspaper printed in Battle Creek, but of having placed on a permanent foundation a present-day publication. He disposed of the *Journal* in 1863 and rested for a time. From 1871 to 1877 he was part owner and editor of a second *Michigan Tribune,* selling his interest to his partner in the latter year.

Mr. Woolnough served in the State Legislature, was an alderman four years, member of the Board of Education nine years and a justice of the peace. In politics he originally was a Whig, belonging to the anti-slavery wing and was one of the first, in fact there is good reason to believe the first, to advocate the dissolution of the Whig party and formation of the Republican party through the columns of the *Journal.* It is a matter of incontrovertible history that the first steps toward the organization of the Republican party were taken at a meeting held in Mr. Wolnough's office early in 1854, himself acting as chairman.

Resolutions were adopted at this meeting and were later ratified at a mass meting held under the Oaks at Jackson, Michigan, July 6th, 1854, he being one of sixty delegates. This matter of local history is recorded in the newspaper files now reposing in Willard Library.

When Horace Greeley was nominated for the presidency Mr. Wool-

Hosted by Google

nough gave him ardent support and from that time adhered to the tenets of true democracy, supporting Samuel J. Tilden by pen, through the columns of the *Michigan Tribune,* as well as on the platform in the fight for the presidency in 1876.

For nearly twenty years Mr. Woolnough was political editor of the *Battle Creek Daily Moon,* his vigorous work being recognized throughout this state.

He maintained an unimpaired mind to the day of his death and was looked upon as a local historian, so accurate was his knowledge of dates and events.

His life was an example worthy of emulation as the highest type of splendid manhood and good citizenship.

Mr. Woolnough was married August 23d, 1843, to Emeline Dorcas Manley of Ashtabula, Ohio, a woman of culture and refinement whose death occurred March 10th, 1899. Two daughters of Mr. Woolnough are living, Mrs. Frank W. Clapp and Mrs. Emeline W. Egery, of Battle Creek, the latter a member of the *Daily Moon* editorial staff.

MRS. JULIA D. BOLLES, formerly Mrs. William H. Mesrole, has had a varied and interesting life, much of which has been lived in this state, chiefly in this vicinity. She was a daughter of Jackson and Hannah (Sandy) Woodmansee, of Lee, Calhoun county, Michigan. Her hand was early sought in marriage by William H. Mesrole, whose name is a familiar one among the old families of Marshall.

Mr. Mesrole was a son of Jonathan Mesrole, of Lorain county, Ohio, and was born in that region in the year 1842. He grew up among agricultural activities and rural school interests, and chose for his vocation the cultivation of the soil and the industries related therewith. He was but a young man, however, when the great conflict which was to preserve the integrity of the nation appealed to his patriotic enthusiasm. On August 9, 1862, he enlisted in Company K, 12th Michigan Infantry, at Jackson, Michigan, and seven days later was mustered into service. But the strenuous conditions and necessary privations of army life were more than his constitution was able to endure. He succumbed to disease, of which he died, on April 14, 1864. His young wife was left with three small children and the memories of a too short life with her courageous young husband.

After a season of lonely widowhood, with its heavy family responsibilities, Julia Mesrole became the wife of William S. Bolles, a native of New York state, but a resident of Litchfield, Calhoun county. Mr. Bolles was a man of excellent education and one who followed the vocation of printing, having had charge of two newspapers at different times. He was a man of genial and kindly disposition, contributing much of generous and indulgent spirit to the atmosphere of the happy home of which he was the head. To him and Mrs. Bolles was born one daughter, Mary Mabel. William Bolles lived until he had passed his 73d year and is remembered for his many excellent qualities.

The children and grandchildren of Mrs. Bolles, together with her property interests, constitute her life's most important interests. Her son, Charles H. Mesrole lives at Olivet, Michigan; her daughter Elizabeth, who became Mrs. Walter Rich and is now a widow, resides in Lee; her daughter Nellie, the wife of N. J. Brangwin, lives on a farm in Convis township. Her three grandchildren are James G. Brangwin, an artist of Detroit; Guy Harrison, of Battle Creek; and Bertha Church, the daughter of Thomas Church, of Marshall. Mrs. Bolles lives cosily in her neat home in Marshall, her sixty-acre farm being leased and in good hands. The twelve dollars pension which she receives monthly, in addition to the income from her farm, enables her

Hosted by Google

to live independently and comfortably. She lives alone, is hale and hearty, and professes to be perfectly happy.

L. C. WILLIAMS. Especially worthy of mention in a work of this character is Mr. L. C. Williams, of Marshall, who has for many years been an important factor in developing the agricultural prosperity of Calhoun county, and is now rendering able and faithful service as drainage commissioner. He was born, November 22, 1856, in Galena, Illinois, where his childhood days were passed.

His father, W. W. Williams, was born, bred and educated in New York state. When quite young he migrated to Illinois. He married Mariette Williams, before leaving New York, who, although bearing the same surname, was not a relative. He subsequently bought a tract of land in Illinois, and there carried on general farming with excellent pecuniary results for many years. Acquiring a competency, he came to Michigan, and here lived in retirement the remainder of his life, enjoying to the utmost his well-earned leisure.

While a school boy, L. C. Williams attended the Yates Academy, in Yates, New York, and after returning to his home in Michigan pursued his studies for a year in the Albion High School and the State Normal at Ypsilanti. Entering then upon a professional career, he taught school sixteen terms, mostly in Calhoun county. Having accumulated some money as a teacher, and feeling the lure of the soil, Mr. Williams then bought one hundred and forty acres of land in Lee township, Calhoun county, and having erected a substantial set of buildings, put the greater part of the land under cultivation, and was there successfully engaged in general farming from 1892 until 1910, for ten years making a specialty of handling sheep, an industry which proved profitable.

Public-spirited, and much interested in town, city and county affairs, Mr. Williams has served his fellow-citizens in various capacities, and always to the satisfaction of his constituents. In 1891 and 1892 he was a school examiner; from 1906 until 1911, inclusive, he served as township supervisor; and in 1910 was elected to his present position as county drain commissioner for a term of two years.

Mr. Williams married, in 1888, Miss Nora E. Wilcox, of Moscow, Hillsdale county, Michigan, a daughter of Foster A. Wilcox. Their union has been blessed by the birth of five children, namely: Nellie, a school teacher; Florence; Foster; Wayne; and L. C., Jr. Fraternally Mr. Williams is a member of Peninsular Lodge, No. 5, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Marshall.

FRED W. EGELER. Another of Marshall's native-born citizens of practical and useful vocation and a man whose industry and economy have raised him from modest means to a position of material success, is Fred W. Egeler, whose work as a moulder is well known in this community. His family represents the solid German virtues which have been proved so important in both intellectual and industrial enterprises of the world. Mr. Egeler's parents were J. C. and Emily (Hoffmouth) Egeler, both of whom were born in Wittenberg, Germany, emigrating to America while quite young, J. C. Egeler being but fifteen years of age when he came to seek his fortunes in a strange land. In 1857 he settled in Michigan, first spending one year in Albion, after which he made Marshall his permanent home. The blacksmith shop which he opened here was long a feature of Marshall's activities, for he conducted it for no less than fifty-six years. His faithful and unpretentious life continued until January 23, 1908—his seventy-fifth

Hosted by Google

year. He was especially active and prominent in the fraternal life of the city, being a member of Albans Lodge No. 20 of the Free and Accepted Masons; of Lafayette Chapter No. 4, Royal Arch Masons; and of Marshall Commandery No. 17, Knights Templar. Emily (Hoffmouth) Egeler lived an inconspicuously noble life, continued until April 16, 1912, at which time she had passed her seventy-sixth year.

Fred W. Egeler, the son of the above-mentioned estimable pair, was born in this city on April 12, 1870. He passed through the public and high schools of Marshall, leaving the latter for the work he found at hand in the blacksmith shop of his father. Here he learned the inherited trade, in which he continued for five years. This was excellent as preliminary to the occupation to which he then passed; for he next entered the employ of Anton Egeler, his uncle. Having mastered the details and operations of this work, Fred Egeler accepted a position in the establishment of Samuel F. Dobbins, a manufacturer of hot air furnaces. From that time, the year 1899, he has steadily continued in the same line of activities with Mr. Dobbins and has proved himself to be a most efficient workman.

Mr. Egeler's interests are chiefly those of his vocation and of his home. The latter was established when Miss Winifred Hughes became the companion of his domestic life on September 1, 1902. She is a daughter of Patrick Hughes, an old and much respected citizen of Marshall.

Fred Egeler is politically conscientious but not politically conspicuous, preferring to let the thoughtful casting of his vote be his chief expression of national and civic interest. He votes the Democratic ticket. Mr. Egeler lives in a comfortable and attractive home, which he owns, at 302 South Madison street. He is in possession of considerable good property and is regarded as one of the enterprising and honorable citizens of Marshall.

FRANK D. MILLER. One of the leading educators of Calhoun county, Frank D. Miller is widely and favorably known as county school commissioner, a position which he has held for twelve years, during which time he has distinguished himself by the ability and fidelity with which he has discharged the multifarious duties devolving upon him. Far-sighted and progressive in the management of the many schools which come under his supervision, he formulates his plans for their betterment with care and wisdom, and in their execution labors with earnest zeal and enthusiasm. A native of Calhoun county, he was born June 1, 1869, in Tekonsha, on the farm of his father, Charles H. Miller

Born in Carroll county, Ohio, in 1838, Charles H. Miller came to Calhoun county, Michigan, when a young man, and having purchased land near Tekonsha, cleared and improved a good farm, on which he was for a number of years prosperously employed in tilling the soil. Removing with his family to the village of Tekonsha in 1882, he conducted a bakery and meat market for sixteen years, and is now living retired from active business, devoting his time and attention to his private interests. His wife, whose maiden name was Sarah A. Davis, was born in Ohio, and died, in 1892, in Tekonsha, Michigan.

Gleaning his elementary education in the common and high schools of Tekonsha, Frank D. Miller subsequently attended the Fenton Normal School, in Genesee county, and the Ypsilanti Normal School, in those institutions preparing himself for a professional career. For sixteen months after leaving school, Mr. Miller was employed in the Chicago Stockyards, first as a bookkeeper, and afterwards as assistant

Hosted by Google

foreman, a position which he resigned during the big strike of 1893. Returning then to Calhoun county, Michigan, he took charge of a school, and continued as a teacher in the public schools for eleven years. In 1904 Mr. Miller had the honor of being appointed county commissioner of schools to fill out the unexpired term of Ernest Burnham, a period of three years. In this capacity, he proved himself so capable that in the fall of 1907 he was elected to the position, and has held the office continuously since by re-election, at the last election receiving a majority of four thousand, two hundred and five of the ballots cast, he and Judge North polling the same number of votes. Mr. Miller, whose present term of office will expire on July 1, 1915, has in his circuit one hundred and sixty-four schools, with one hundred and ninety-five teachers, every school in the county being under his control, with the exception of the Battle Creek schools and the Albion schools, which are incorporated under the city charter.

Mr. Miller married, June 3, 1902, Miss Pearl Cowles, of Burlington, Michigan, a daughter of William and Nancy (French) Cowles, and into their home two children have made their advent, Ernest Lyle and Frank Duane. Fraternally Mr. Miller belongs to St. Albans Lodge No. 20, Free and Accepted Order of Masons; to Marshall Lodge, Knights of Pythias; to Eudora Chapter No. 385 Order of Eastern Star and to Marshall Temple No. 96 Order of Pythian Sisters.

WILLIAM F. GRAFF. A native-born citizen of Marshall, Michigan, and the representative of an early pioneer family of this part of Calhoun county, William F. Graff is well known both as a prominent member of the Knights of Pythias, and as a clerk in the Marshall Post Office. He was born November 24, 1883, a son of the late John Graff. His paternal grandfather, John G. Graff, was born and reared in Wurtemburg, Germany. Immigrating in early manhood to America, he made his way directly to Michigan, settling in Calhoun county, and for many years being an honored and respected resident of Marshall. He rounded out a life of upwards of four score years, passing to the life beyond, April 23, 1912.

John Graff was born, bred and educated in the city of Marshall, where he spent his brief life, passing away in 1887, while yet in the prime of manhood. He married Hannah Burkhardt, who was born in Washtenaw county, and is a resident of this city.

Acquiring a practical education when young, William F. Graff was graduated from the Marshall High School with the class of 1902, and immediately after began life on his own account as a clerk in the Post Office, a position which he has held ever since, his record of service in that capacity bespeaking his ability and trustworthiness.

Fraternally Mr. Graff is identified with St. Albans Lodge, No. 20, Free and Accepted Order of Masons, and is a member of Marshall Lodge, No. 179, Knights of Pythias, in which he has filled all of the offices, including that of chancellor, which is the highest in the lodge. Mr. Graff is widely known as a progressive citizen, and has the friendship and esteem of his acquaintance. He is still unmarried.

DR. CHARLES E. STEWART. With a staff of the well known excellence of that of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, it is by no means an easy matter to gain a place upon it and still harder to hold such a position once it is obtained. Occupying a place of prominence among this group of well known men, is Doctor Charles E. Stewart, who is vice president of the Battle Creek Sanitarium Board. He has been in active practice in Battle Creek, practically all of the time since his graduation, and has

Hosted by Google

proved, many times, his value to the institution with which he is connected. He is a skilled physician, an indefatigable worker, and a man of forceful personality.

The 21st of March, 1869, was the date of Doctor Charles E. Stewart's birth, the town in which he was born being London, Canada. His father was John Paton Stewart, who was a native of Scotland. John Stewart came to this country with his parents when he was eight years old. They settled near London, Canada, and there the father learned the carriage making and blacksmithing trade. He was married in London to Margaret Grieve, who was a native of London, Canada. After living in this section for several years, they moved to Minnesota, near Moorhead, where John Stewart became a farmer. This removal took place in April, 1883, and there they lived until they moved to Tennessee, where they remained for a short time. In 1899 the family came to Battle Creek, and after only a few weeks of residence here, the father died. The mother is still living in this city. There were ten in this family, seven boys and three girls, and eight of these are now living. Of these Doctor Stewart is the eldest. William G. and John E. are both living in Minnesota; Mrs. Arthur Brown is a resident of Worcester, Massachusetts; Robert P. lives in Oregon; Fred M. is out in the state of Washington; Chester A. is in Porto Rico, and Ruth E. is living in Battle Creek.

The early education of Doctor Stewart was obtained in the public schools of London, Canada, and in the schools of Moorhead, Minnesota, where he graduated from the high school, in the class of 1889. The following year he came to Battle Creek, and took a course in nursing at the Battle Creek Sanitarium, from which he was graduated in 1891. He was inspired by this work to go into medicine and consequently entered the University of Michigan Medical School during the same year. He was graduated from this institution with the degree of M. D. in 1895, and began his practice in Battle Creek, where he has since continued.

Doctor Stewart was married to Elizabeth Reith, daughter of John and Jean (Moir) Reith, on the 28th of June, 1898. The marriage took place in Chicago, Mrs. Stewart being a native of Canada, where her parents were farmers near London, and now residents of British Columbia. She was educated in Canada and is a graduate nurse of The Battle Creek Sanitarium. Doctor Stewart met his wife at the Sanitarium, where she was later, matron of the nurses' department. They have four children, all of whom were born in Battle Creek. These children are Edwin R., Elizabeth M., Jean F. and Eleanor R., the last named being a Christmas gift, for she was born on the 25th of December, 1911.

FRANK W. CLAPP, eldest of the lawyers now in actual practice in the county of Calhoun, was born in Bedford, Ohio, on November 25, 1844, and came, with his parents to Battle Creek, Michigan, in May, 1845, where he has since lived.

He attended the public schools of Battle Creek until June, 1865, and in September of that year entered Olivet College, graduating therefrom on June 18, 1868, with the degree of B. S., later receiving the degree of M. S.

In the fall of 1868 Mr. Clapp entered the law department of Michigan University and received the degree of B. L. on March 30, 1870. After spending some time in the law offices of Joy and Sherman in Battle Creek he opened a law office in his home town in October, 1871, and has continued in the practice of the law since that time. On June 23, 1875, he was married to Josephine Woolnough, daughter of Hon. Walter W. Woolnough, the family relationship remaining unbroken.

Hosted by Google

Politically, Mr. Clapp has always been a member of the Republican party and has been city attorney of Battle Creek several different terms, prosecuting attorney of the county of Calhoun from and including the years 1875-1879, member of the state legislature during the years 1891 and 1892, state senator, representing the counties of Calhoun and Kalamazoo, from and including the years 1893-1896.

His political activities, as far as office holding is concerned, were finished as mayor of the city of Battle Creek, serving one term from April, 1904, to April, 1905.

WALTER F. HALE. By thirty or more years of successful activity as an agriculturist Walter F. Hale has earned a place on the roster of Calhoun county's representative citizens and deserves mention among those who have been valued factors in the upbuilding of Clarence township. Himself a native son of Michigan, he is a scion of two of this state's pioneer settlers and has other ancestral inheritance of more than usual interest. The Hales were a prominent colonial family of the old Massachusetts commonwealth and Walter F. Hale has the distinction of being the grandson of Nathaniel Wallace, an aide to General Washington during the Revolution.

Born in Cass county, Michigan, October 16, 1844, Walter F. Hale is a son of Jerome H. and Lucy (Wallace) Hale, pioneers, of Michigan, who were residents of the state many years. The father was born in Massachusetts in 1824 and when a boy came to Michigan with his parents in 1836, the family spending their first winter in Detroit but later removing to Niles. After he had taken up independent responsibilities he became a merchant at Wauconda, Illinois, where he remained a number of years, or until 1857, when, failing in business he returned to Michigan, which state thereafter remained his home. After his return here he followed carpentering until his death and was fairly successful. In politics he was a Republican and took an active and leading part in the local affairs of his party. While a resident of Wauconda, Illinois, he served as postmaster six years and was a candidate for treasurer but was defeated on account of his strong dislike of slavery. He was a son of Dr. Benjamin F. Hale who, as previously mentioned, came to Michigan in 1836. He was a physician of skill and spent the remainder of his life in this state as an active practitioner at Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, passing away in 1869. Lucy (Wallace) Hale, the mother of our subject, was born in New York in 1826 and was the daughter of Nathaniel Wallace, the Revolutionary patriot referred to above who served seven years in the struggle for national independence and was an aide to General Washington. He was a native of New York and was a wealthy silk merchant. Mrs. Hale drew a pension for his war service. She was a regular attendant of the Presbyterian church.

Walter F. Hale is one of two sons that came to his parents, the other being Wallace Hale, now deceased. He received good educational advantages, his preliminary studies in the common schools of Wauconda, Illinois, having been supplemented by a period of study in the academy at Wauconda and by two years' work in the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He began business activity as a photographer and followed that line of endeavor three years. At the end of that period he took up farming, on the shares until his marriage in 1874, and after that independently on his present homestead of fifty-six acres in Clarence township, where his attention has since been given to general farming and to peach raising, having a fine large orchard of this fruit on his place. In political views and affiliations he is a Republican and

Hosted by Google

in an official way has served as constable, township clerk, highway commissioner and as township supervisor in 1902 and 1903. Mrs. Hale was Miss Jennie Bell prior to her marriage, a daughter of Oliver S. Bell and Reliance M. (Dixon) Bell, who were highly respected pioneer residents of Clarence township. Mr. Bell was born in New York in 1816 and came to Calhoun county, Michigan, in 1836, locating on an eighty acre farm in Clarence township which afterward remained his residence until his death in 1874. His wife, who also was a native of New York, was born in 1823 and died in 1904, at the advanced age of eighty-one years. Andrew Bell, the grandfather of Mrs. Hale, was a soldier in the war of 1812. The education of Mrs. Hale included a term at Albion College. Three children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hale, namely: Frederick, who married Eva Graham and who manages the home place; Nellie, who married Charles Sabin and Maude, the wife of Edward Van Sickle, who resides in Clarence township, and who was a soldier in the Spanish-American war. They also have six interesting grandchildren: Orvil O. Hale; Walter C. and Aaron O., the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Sabin; and Frederick, Ethel and Edwin, the children of Mr. and Mrs. Van Sickle.

CHARLES W. RYAN, M. D. It is entirely within the province of true history to commemorate and perpetuate the lives and character, the achievements and honor of the illustrious sons of the state. High on the roll of those whose efforts have made the history of medicine in Michigan a work of fame appears the name of Dr. Charles W. Ryan, specialist in the diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, who for the past nine years has been numbered among the medical practitioners of Battle Creek, Michigan. He is a representative of a fine old southern family and was born in the city of Charleston, West Virginia, February 16, 1872. He is a son of Rev. Edward Winson and Susan B. (Cherrington) Ryan, the former of whom was born and reared in Kentucky and the latter of whom was a native of Virginia. Rev. and Mrs. Ryan were married at Catlettsburg, Kentucky. He was a captain in the Confederate army during the war of the Rebellion and as a young man became ordained as a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church. He began preaching at the age of twenty years and is an extremely well educated man and an orator. In 1886 he was transferred from the West Virginia conference to the Detroit, Michigan, conference and at the time of his retirement he was preaching at the Simpson Methodist Episcopal Church in Detroit, the second largest church of that denomination in the state of Michigan. He is now seventy-two years old and resides at Detroit, where he is well known and beloved by all with whom he has come in contact. His wife died at Detroit in 1886. Rev. and Mrs. Ryan were the parents of three boys and four girls, four of whom are living at the present time, in 1912, namely,—Edward B. is with the Western Methodist Book Concern at Cincinnati, Ohio; Mamie D. Copeland resides in Detroit, Michigan; Dr. Charles W. is the immediate subject of this review; and Genevieve C. is the wife of Dr. Milton T. Watson, of Detroit.

Dr. Charles W. Ryan was a child of fourteen years of age at the time of his parents' removal to Detroit. He received his preliminary educational training in the public schools of West Virginia and subsequently attended school in Detroit and in Bay City, Michigan, being graduated in the high school of the latter place in 1887. He entered the University of Michigan in 1892 and was graduated in the medical department of that institution as a member of the class of 1896. For three terms thereafter he was assistant professor at his alma mater in

Hosted by Google



Chas. W. Ryan, M. D.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat and in diseases of children. He entered upon the active practice of his profession at Jackson, Michigan, in 1898, but remained there only a short time because of the impaired condition of his health. He came to Battle Creek in 1903 and since then has here enjoyed a large and lucrative practice in the diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat.

At the time of the outbreak of the Spanish-American war, in 1898, Dr. Ryan enlisted as a volunteer in a Michigan company, serving as a private in Company H, Thirty-first Michigan Regiment, until the close of hostilities. He is a Progressive Republican in politics and in a fraternal way is affiliated with the Woodmen of the World and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a man of broad human sympathy and being gifted with unusual ability along the line of his chosen profession he is able to do a great deal of good for mankind. As a citizen he is loyal and public spirited and he commands the unalloyed confidence and esteem of all with whom he has come in contact.

October 21, 1908, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Ryan to Miss Margaret Boulden Jan Delle, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Jan Delle, of Battle Creek. The Jan Delles are old settlers in Calhoun county and Mrs. Ryan's father is engaged in the buying and shipping of cattle and stock. Mrs. Ryan was born in Marshall township, Calhoun county, Michigan, and she was graduated in the Marshall high school. Through self study she has become one of the best educated women in this section of the state, is well versed on the leading topics of the day, and is a stanch advocate of Socialism. The Ryan residence is at No. 64 Broad Street. Dr. and Mrs. Ryan have no children.

NORRIS JOSEPH FRINK was born in Marshall, Michigan, March 9, 1842, being the second child of Joseph Colton and Caroline Amelia (Norris) Frink. His father was one of the pioneers of Marshall, and one of its more highly respected citizens.

Mr. Frink's boyhood and youth were spent in his native place. At the breaking out of the war of the rebellion, he was but a slight and slender youth, yet full of patriotism, and while yet in his minority he enlisted in the service of his country. In September, 1862, he entered service as second lieutenant of Company A, Twenty-fifth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and at once left for the front. He was stationed in various places in Kentucky, including Louisville, Munfordsville, Bowling Green and Lebanon, crossing the mountains into East Tennessee, in the meantime making a fine record as a brave and dashing soldier, and being promoted, October 10, 1862, to the rank of first lieutenant. Tiring of provost and guard duty, he resigned from the army October 29, 1863.

In July, 1864, Mr. Frink was commissioned by Governor Blair captain, and recruiting officer, for the Twenty-ninth Michigan Volunteer Infantry. The Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth regiments being consolidated, Captain Frink was commissioned major, and his regiment, which was assigned to the Twenty-third Army Corps, participated in the battles about Nashville from December 12, 1864, until December 16, 1864, "where it fully established a reputation as a gallant regiment, and at once reached the high standard of Michigan troops."

From March 8 until March 10, 1865, the regiment took part in the fighting at Wise's Forks, and it was Major Frink's gallantry at that time that secured for him the appointment, dated March 13, 1865, for brevet lieutenant colonel of the United States Volunteers "for gallant and meritorious services." He also served with honor and distinction as inspector general on the staff of Major General Ruger. Being hon-

Hosted by Google

orably discharged from the army, June 5, 1866, he at once returned to Marshall, and assumed the position of cashier in his father's bank.

On March 29, 1870, Mr. Frink married Isabella Wilbur Gorham, a daughter of Charles T. Gorman. Soon after that event, he became associated with the First National Bank of Marshall as assistant cashier, and was afterwards made cashier, a position that he was holding at the time of his death. During all the business years of his life, he took an active and intelligent interest in public affairs, and for many years served faithfully and efficiently on the municipal school board, being almost unanimously re-elected at the expiration of his many terms of office.

Politically Mr. Frink was a Republican, and for many years was one of the party leaders, having repeatedly been a delegate to county, congressional district, and state conventions. Although strongly averse to running for office, he was persuaded, in the spring of 1888, to accept the nomination for mayor of Marshall, and was elected by a large majority in a Democratic stronghold, just twenty-four years to a day after his father was elected to the same high position. While filling the mayor's chair, Mr. Frink did much to advance the interests of the city, and was promoter of the present system of water works.

Mr. Frink was a prominent member of the Masonic Fraternity, having passed every degree, and occupied many chairs, in the various lodges of Marshall. He was a Past Eminent Commander of Marshall Commandery, No. 17, Knights Templar, and had many times been a representative to the state bodies. He was initiated February 1, 1872, in Marshall Lodge, No. 294, Free and Accepted Order of Masons; was exalted to Lafayette Chapter, No. 4, April 10, 1872; and received the Order of Knighthood in Marshall Commandery, No. 17, Knights Templar, May 2, 1882. He was also a member of De Witt Clinton Consistory, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons of Grand Rapids, at the time of his admission to that body having been the only thirty-second degree Mason in Marshall. He was also a Mason after the Third Veil in the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan. Mr. Frink was likewise a member, and past commander, of C. Colegrove Post, Grand Army of the Republic; and a Companion of the First Class of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

Mr. Frink died April 29, 1890, from the effects of a surgical operation, and was buried in the family lot in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Marshall. His death was deeply mourned by the whole community, rich and poor alike feeling the personal loss of a true friend. In honor of his memory the schools were closed, and all business in town suspended, the day of his funeral.

Mrs. Frink, his widow, still survives, and with their only child, Amelia Norris, (Mrs. James Redfield) lives on the old homestead, in Marshall.

WAYNE D. MARSH. The mercantile enterprise of Battle Creek has one of its best representatives in Wayne D. Marsh, the dealer in wall paper, paints, oils, glass and window shades, at 13 Jefferson avenue North. Mr. Marsh is an experienced and successful merchant, and belongs to one of the old families of Calhoun county.

He was born at West LeRoy, this county, February 10, 1861. The pioneer of the family in this vicinity was his grandfather, Samuel Marsh, who during the '50s moved from Erie county, New York, to Michigan, and secured land in this county, probably as one of the original homesteaders. He and his wife passed away some thirty years ago. About three years after his settlement in this county, his son Hiram S. with his wife Harriet N. (Warren) Marsh came on from Clarence, Erie

Hosted by Google

county, New York, where they both had been born and married, and located at West LeRoy. These were the parents of Mr. W. D. Marsh of this sketch. In 1865, the father moved into Battle Creek, and established the firm of Marsh & Mills and later Marsh & Moulton, meat dealers, their shops being where Minty's cigar store now is. Later, for about four years before his death, he was in the bottling business (soda water and other soft drinks). His death occurred September 30, 1888, and his wife died in 1882. He was affiliated with the Odd Fellows lodge in Battle Creek. There were just two children, Wayne D. being the older. His brother James W. has been associated with him in business for the past five years.

Wayne D. Marsh, after getting a fair schooling, began his business experience by keeping books for his father while the latter was in the meat business. In the fall of 1880 he became an employe of Horace Howell, whose establishment was at 13 North Jefferson and handled about the same lines as Mr. Marsh does now, being in fact the predecessor of the present store. By attention to business and a thorough capacity for trade Mr. Marsh by 1890 was able to acquire, with Mr. Eli Link as partner, the business of his former employer. Up to five years ago the business was run under the firm name of Marsh & Link, since which date Mr. Marsh has been the proprietor. However, Mr. Link still is joint owner with Mr. Marsh in the store building. This is an extensive business, and is not confined to selling the stock on the shelves. It is a business office for both the supplies and work of painting, decorating, wall papering, etc., and about twenty-five men are kept busy all the year around.

Mr. Marsh is a charter member of the Athelstan Club, the most influential civic and social organization in Battle Creek, and he was also formerly a director in the body. Politically he is a Democrat, and is a member of the Elks and the Knights of Pythias. He is a vestryman in the St. Thomas' Episcopal church and for ten years was its treasurer. His residence is at 38 West street. December 19, 1894, he married at Monroe, Wisconsin, Miss Lelia C. Studley, who died in March, 1907. On November 19, 1909, at Buffalo, New York, Miss Jessie Ferguson became his wife.

JAMES W. MARSH, brother of Wayne D. Marsh, and associated with him in the business already described, was born at West LeRoy, this county, May 28, 1862, the son of Hiram S. and Harriet M. (Warren) Marsh. The family moving to Battle Creek when he was three years old, he was reared in this city and was graduated from the city schools with the class of 1880.

The greater part of his business career was spent in Buffalo, New York. Leaving his home town in the fall of 1882, for fifteen years he was general bookkeeper for the American Exchange Bank of Buffalo, and when that bank went out of business, he held the same position with the Fidelity Trust Company for ten years. Mr. Marsh returned to Battle Creek in 1906, and since that date has been with his brother in business.

Mr. Marsh is a vestryman of St. Thomas' Episcopal church and a short time ago resigned the office of treasurer. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, having joined the order in Buffalo and later transferred to Battle Creek; also with the Elks lodge, and is a member of the Athelstan Club.

He was married December 24, 1895, to Miss Eva Elizabeth Scobell, who was born and reared in Kingston, Ontario. They are the parents of one daughter, Emily Josephine, born at Buffalo, August 18,

Hosted by Google

1901, and now attending the Battle Creek schools. Mr. Marsh and family reside at 38 West street. Mr. Marsh is a member of Battle Creek Lodge, No. 131, B. P. O. E. and also a Mason, belonging to Battle Creek lodge, No. 12.

CHARLES N. KANE. Among the successful and enterprising merchants of Battle Creek, Charles N. Kane has a prominent place as proprietor of the South Side grocery at 259 Lake avenue. In his advertising he emphasizes the fact that this is "The Clean Store," and in that respect as in his other methods he is up-to-date and vigorous in securing the best class of trade and keeping it continually patronizing at his place.

Mr. Kane, who represents one of the oldest and best known families of Calhoun county, was born in Battle Creek township, November 1, 1859. His parents were Andrew M. and Jane Elizabeth (Hart) Kane.

The late Andrew M. Kane, who died at his home in Battle Creek township, May 2, 1908, had a varied and eventful career, beginning in this county when it was just emerging from the conditions of the wilderness. He was born in Burnt Hill, New York, in 1824, coming to Michigan with his parents when he was fourteen years old, and though he experienced many hardships and always was a vigorous and active worker, attained to the advanced age of eighty-four before he died. His father was one of the early coopers who settled in this part of Michigan, and the son learned that trade under him and was engaged in the work for some years. After the outbreak of the Civil war, and soon after the first battle of Bull Run, he followed the example of many younger men and enlisted and became a private in Company I of the Second Missouri Cavalry, better known as Merrill's Horse Guards. He was advanced to the rank of second lieutenant, but a serious illness in his family called him home and ended his military career.

In 1850 he had engaged in the milling business, and for many years he was known through this enterprise in South Battle Creek as proprietor of the flouring mill on Langley creek. He also owned a farm of eighty acres, where his children were born and where one of his sons still resides. In 1862 an accident in the mill caused him the loss of an arm, but despite this handicap he was successful both as a miller and farmer, and did his work as well as many men better physically equipped. Before the war he was one of the strong abolitionists of this section, and with the formation of the Republican party became one of its stanch adherents. Then when other public questions rose into prominence, he allied himself first with the Greenback party, and in later years adopted the general principles and usually voted for the labor ticket. In local affairs he served his township in the office of treasurer and also as highway commissioner.

He was married at the age of twenty-two to Miss Elizabeth Jane Hart, who died June 29, 1873, and she was the mother of his three sons who survive him. He was again married in 1874. His three sons are: Eugene F., who resides on the old Kane homestead; Henry P., a groceryman of Battle Creek; and Charles N., the youngest.

Charles N. Kane during his boyhood attended the common and high schools in Battle Creek, and has always followed a business career. For about fifteen years he was a bookkeeper, half of that time keeping the books for the board of public works, and the other half being employed by the Advance Thresher Company (now the Rumely Company). For about four years he was on the road, covering the states of Iowa and Minnesota, selling the Champion harvesting machinery and implements for the Warder-Bushnell & Glessner Company. In 1907 he established

Hosted by Google

his South Side Grocery, and has since built up a large trade, and is one of the independently successful merchants of Battle Creek.

Mr. Kane is a Democrat in politics, and is affiliated with the Battle Creek Lodge No. 35 of the Knights of Pythias. He was married on July 29, 1891, to Miss Alta A. Stewart. Her death occurred February 25, 1911. Mr. Kane still keeps his home at 256 Lake avenue, his store being across the street from his residence.

J. LYMAN READE. A resident of Battle Creek nearly all his life, Mr. J. Lyman Reade has been identified with this city's business and public affairs in many ways that give his name prominence in the history of this vicinity.

For the past nine years he has been the active head of the J. L. Reade Company, insurance, real estate, bonds and loans. This is a co-partnership with a silent partner, Mr. Reade having developed the business from the start, and it is now one of the best known and most reliable agencies of the kind in the county. The offices of the company are in the New Kapp building at 24-26 Main street West.

J. Lyman Reade was born at Kalamazoo, Michigan, December 2, 1864, a son of George W. and Mary A. (Nolan) Reade. The Reades are a very old and prominent family in this state. The mother was a native of Monroe, Michigan, and the father was born in New York, and both now rest in the Oak Hill cemetery of Battle Creek. The grandfather, whose name was J. L. Reade, was among the early settlers at Bellevue, Michigan, along with the Hinmans and others well known in that vicinity. He was a man of high character and aristocratic manners, dressing in the ruffled shirt and silk hat of the olden fashion, and he was a strict churchman of the Episcopal faith. He was an early manufacturer, and for some years lived in Battle Creek. George W. Reade, the father, was by trade a cabinet maker. Before the Civil war he had established at Memphis, Tennessee, a furniture factory and had built up the business so that it employed about fifty hands. His northern sympathies and principles prevented him from fighting the Union and his refusal to assist the south resulted in his factory being burned, and he barely escaped himself from the southern soldiers. By sleeping in the day and traveling on foot at night, he finally came within the Union lines and then returned to Michigan. He was a resident of Battle Creek about twenty-five years, and then moved to Chicago, where for twenty years before his death he was associated with his brother in the brokerage business. His wife died at Kalamazoo. J. Lyman is the older of their two children, and his brother, George W., who was born in Jackson, Michigan, now resides with him in this city. The grandparents on both sides are buried at Kalamazoo.

Mr. J. L. Reade was reared and educated in Battle Creek and was a student in the Adventist College for three years. At the age of seventeen he began learning telegraphy with the Michigan Central, and for six years was operator and train dispatcher for that railroad, until his usefulness in this capacity was terminated by operator's paralysis. For a year and a half he was associated with his father in general contracting, and then returned to the railroad business as telegrapher and freight clerk for the old Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw road. The company promoted him to the position of general agent, an office which he filled for sixteen years, with headquarters in Battle Creek.

Mr. Reade took an active part in the organization of the Battle Creek Breakfast Food Company, and left the railroad to become secretary of the company. The chief products manufactured by this company were the popular cereals—Egg-O-See and E C Flakes. The factories of the

Hosted by Google

company are now located at Quincy, Illinois, and Buffalo, New York, and the general office in Chicago. While the office was in Battle Creek Mr. Reade was officially identified with the company.

The present J. L. Reade Company was established August 3, 1903, and has handled some of the largest real estate deals in this city during the last ten years. As representative of some of the best known fire insurance companies, he has developed a business of very large proportions.

Mr. Reade for a number of years has assumed responsibilities in connection with the municipal government and is also one of the leading Democrats of the county. He is now closing a four-year term as police commissioner. He succeeded the late H. M. Rathbun by appointment, serving four months as alderman from the Second ward, and in the following election he was the only Democrat chosen on the city ticket. Under Mayor Metcalf he was a member of the board of public works, and was its secretary three years and president one year. Fraternally he affiliates with the Elks and the Knights of Pythias, has been a member of the Athelstan Club for the past twenty-five years, and also belongs to the Country Club. A great lover of horses, he has at this writing eight colts of fine trotting stock which he is raising and training to sell later.

Mr. Reade's residence, at 55 Fremont street, is one of the most beautiful homes in the city and is located in one of the best residence districts. He has a wife and one daughter. December 7, 1887, he was married to Miss Carrie E. Cowles, daughter of Truman H. Cowles, of Battle Creek. Her father died before their marriage, and her mother now lives with Mr. and Mrs. Reade. Mrs. Reade, who was born at Johnstown, Barry county, is a graduate of the Battle Creek schools, is a member of the Independent Congregational church, and belongs to the Woman's Club and the Woman's League. Their daughter, who is now in high school, is Marion Mary, named after her two grandmothers.

REUBEN J. SPAULDING. One of the progressive real estate men who are promoting the development of Battle Creek and vicinity is Reuben J. Spaulding. The R. J. Spaulding Realty Company, of which he is proprietor, with offices in the Post building, has a large clientage and has an excellent reputation among owners and buyers of real estate.

Mr. Spaulding was born in Bellevue township, Eaton county, Michigan, May 2, 1881, and his family is one of the oldest in the state of Michigan. His great-grandfather, Captain Daniel Spaulding, settled in this state when it was a wilderness. His grandfather is John A. Spaulding, still living at Bellevue, who for a number of years was treasurer of Eaton county and a very prominent citizen. R. J. Spaulding's parents are George G. and Ella E. (Nelson) Spaulding, who have resided in Battle Creek since 1911. The father was born in Bellevue township, Eaton county, and the mother in Assyria township, Barry county, where her parents owned a large farm at Section Hill. Until his removal to Battle Creek Mr. George G. Spaulding was a farmer and stock buyer for many years. In this city he has become interested in business with his sons. He is president of the Spaulding Cigar Company (Inc.), in the Ward building at 35 North Jefferson avenue. His three sons are all connected with this business, R. J., being vice president, Roy D., secretary and treasurer, and Clifford N., manager. Besides these three sons there is one daughter, Mrs. Fred Bowen, of Addison, Michigan, where she taught school two years previous to her marriage. All the children were born in Eaton county and are graduates of the Bellevue high school. R. J. and Roy D., both graduated in the class of 1901, while

Hosted by Google

Mrs. Bowen was a member of the class of 1904 and Clifford in the class of 1906. R. J. and his brother Roy also attended Olivet College two years, and their sister was a graduate of the Ypsilanti Normal in 1907.

Mr. R. J. Spaulding began his business career in Battle Creek in 1903, in August of that year starting a retail grocery here. Afterwards his brother Roy joined him in this enterprise, under the name of Spaulding Brothers, and their store was on Maple street across from the No. 5 school. In April, 1909, Mr. Spaulding sold his interest in that business, and then engaged in real estate and insurance under the business name already given. His first office was in the Ward building, from which he removed to the Post building on June 11, 1911.

On November 19, 1902, he was united in marriage with Miss Edith M. Hamlyn, daughter of Richard Hamlyn, who was also one of the early settlers of Eaton county. Her mother died about 1900, while her father, who has been in the meat business all his life, is now owner of a market in Grand Ledge, this state. Mrs. Spaulding, who was born in Bellevue, graduated from the same class in high school as her husband, and they were married in Bellevue. They are the parents of two children, Adriel H., aged seven, and Aylond R., aged four. The Spaulding residence is at 105 Van Buren Street, East.

ROBERT P. ROE. Civilization will hail riches, prowess, honors, popularity, but it will bow humbly to sincerity in its fellows. The exponent of known sincerity—singleness of honest purpose—has its exemplification in all bodies of men; he is found in every association and to him defer its highest honors. Such an exemplar, whose daily life and whose life work have been dominated as their most conspicuous characteristic by sincerity, is Robert Percy Roe, who formerly owned and conducted an art store in the city of Battle Creek but who is now engaged in the supervision of the art department of the F. C. Root Art & Paper Store, owned by F. C. Root. Mr. Roe has ever manifested a great interest in public affairs and while he is not an office seeker he does all in his power to forward the best interests of his home city.

Robert Percy Roe was born in Brooklyn, New York, February 22, 1874, and he has been a resident of Battle Creek since early childhood. He is a son of Robert and Mary J. (Duncan) Roe, further data concerning whose lives appear in the sketch dedicated to Mary J. Roe. In 1878 the Roe family came to Michigan, settling in Battle Creek, where Robert P. was a pupil in the public schools until 1896. As he early manifested an aptitude for artistic work, he entered the art store of F. M. Hopkins, working there afternoons. Later he was in Kalamazoo, where he worked as a clerk in one of the leading art stores of that city. Upon his return to Battle Creek, in 1897, he assisted Warren Wright in establishing an art store in this city. From 1897 to 1899 he attended the University of Michigan. A short time thereafter he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was foreman in the extensive and beautiful art establishment of Barton-Mackey, in which place his artistic talents were given full sway. He proved to be one of the most valuable employes in the above establishment as his ideas, being so unusually artistic, were of the greatest importance in the decoration of store and display windows. In the spring of 1900 he purchased the store of Mr. Wright and conducted the same under the name of the Roe's Art Store, at No. 54 West Main street, for the ensuing four years. His taste in framing and mounting pictures is unexcelled as he combines artistic ideas with the best possible workmanship. He is so eminently well fitted for his particular line of work that he is considered the art criterion by all lovers of art in this community. After

Hosted by Google

disposing of the Roe's Art Store, mentioned above, Mr. Roe went to California, remaining in that commonwealth for three months, at the expiration of which he returned to Battle Creek, where he lived retired for the following year. In 1906 he assumed charge of the art department in the store owned by Mr. Root and he has continued the efficient incumbent of that position to the present time, in 1912. In addition to his art work he is the owner of the Roe Flats of Battle Creek and other valuable city real estate.

In a fraternal way Mr. Roe is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, and he is likewise connected with the Athelstan Club, being on the entertainment committee of that organization, and the Xi Psi Phi college fraternity. In politics he is a stalwart supporter of the principles put forward by the Republican party. Religiously, he and his wife are devout members of the Independent Congregational church,

March 20, 1901, Mr. Roe was united in marriage to Miss Mabel Mead, a daughter of Marion and Electa (Ray) Mead, the former of whom is mentioned elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Roe was born in Kalamazoo county, Michigan, and received her elementary educational training in the public schools of Battle Creek, where she was graduated in the high school in 1896. She was also a student in the University of Michigan for two years and is a member of the Alpha Phi Sorority. The Roe home is at No. 159 North avenue and Mrs. Roe's mother is a member of the household, her husband being deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Roe are popular in connection with the best social activities of their home community and they command the unalloyed confidence and esteem of all with whom they have come in contact.

MARION MEAD. The family of Marion Mead was one of Michigan's early families. His father, Thomas Mead, who was born in 1804 and whose former home had been at Ithaca, New York, came to this state in 1833 and took up government land in Washtenaw county. It was here that Marion Mead was born on May 4th, 1836. Three years later his father sold his land and removed to Kalamazoo county, where he purchased 148 acres of land. Thomas Mead was one of the earliest settlers of this county, his first home here being a little log cabin of his own building. It is interesting to record the fact that he, with the breaking team which he kept, was one who broke ground on the spot where Battle Creek now stands. He was a well known figure in those pioneer days and outlived many of his contemporaries. His last days were spent in Battle Creek township, Calhoun county, where his death occurred in May, 1878. His wife, who in girlhood was Fanny Bloom of Tompkin county, New York, died in 1886.

Of the four sons and four daughters in Thomas Mead's family, Marion was the third child and second son. His early education was begun by attendance at classes taught in a private house in Bedford township; he next attended school in a building partly in Calhoun and partly in Kalamazoo county; and his studies were completed in the public schools of Bedford township. Having been always energetic in the work of the home farm, where at ten years of age he had first driven oxen in helping his father to break sod, he continued with his parents until he had attained the years of his majority. At this time he began his first independent enterprise, which was the threshing business and with the outfit he had purchased continued this work for four years.

In 1860 he married Miss Electa Roy, a daughter of William and Harriet (Harris) Roy, of Phelps, Ontario county, New York. Her parents were both New Yorkers, the father a native of that county and

Hosted by Google

the mother of Dutchess county. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Mead settled in the northeast corner of Charleston township, where he entered upon the pioneer task of developing a farm. On this land he built the first house and barn and here he lived for fifteen years. Having developed this farm, he later removed to another in the same section, which he also improved. His work so prospered that he was the owner of four excellent farms which, altogether, consisted of nearly five hundred acres of land, at the time when he left farming to make his home in Battle Creek. His last rural residence was two miles from Augusta, in Kalamazoo county and the present city home of the family is one of the old land marks of Battle Creek where it was long known as the Metcalf home. Although built about sixty years ago, it has now all modern improvements and is beautifully kept. He died in Battle Creek on the fifth of November, 1896, only two weeks after his retirement from his agricultural activities.

Mrs. Mead now resides at the home on 159 North avenue, which is her property. She has disposed of her farms and has invested in other property. The two daughters, who were the only children of Marion Mead and his wife, are both married. The elder, Stella L., was married before her father's death to Elmer R. Cowles and now lives in Berkeley, California, which has been her home since 1901. Her son, Russell R., is a graduate of the University of California, which is located in Berkeley. The younger daughter of the Meads, Mabel, was married in 1901 to Mr. Percy Roe, whose life is reviewed elsewhere in these volumes. She is a graduate of the Battle Creek high school and was for two years a student in the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. She and her husband live with Mrs. Mead in the family residence at 159 North avenue.

CHARLES C. MCDERMID. A citizen of Pennfield worthy of honorable mention is Charles C. McDermid.

He was born near Waukesha, Wisconsin, February 22, 1844, came to Cambria, Hillsdale county, Michigan, in 1848, with his parents, Andrew J. and Harriet Hall McDermid, was educated at home and in the early district schools, and in Hillsdale College, from which he graduated in 1865. He was married August 15, 1866, to his classmate, Miss Lydia E. Bouton, who has been a most worthy and efficient helper in all his undertakings, and is still the good genius of his pleasant home. He removed to Pennfield late in 1869, where he has ever since resided, except for four years at Marshall as county clerk, and a year at Lansing in department work. His lifelong occupation has been farming; he has been locally prominent as a Grange and Farmers' Institute worker; is now making a specialty of dairying, and has a fine herd of Jersey cows.

Mr. McDermid has invariably aimed to be an intelligent citizen, larger and broader than his immediate work, whatever it might be. He has never ceased to be a reader and a student, and to keep fairly in touch with the world's progress. His later diversions are botanical study and amateur photography.

On the father's side Mr. McDermid is descended from John McDermid, Sr., who came from Scotland at an early age, and lived and died near Saratoga, New York. His immediate ancestor, Andrew Jackson McDermid, was born shortly after the battle of New Orleans, and was named from the hero of that engagement. In the early 30's he came to Michigan with his brother John McDermid, the two exploring a large part of southern Michigan looking for fine farming lands and water power, sleeping in the open woods with the camp fire keeping the wolves at bay. Together they located the power and mill site at

Hosted by Google

Cambria, Hillsdale county, where they afterward built and operated lumber and flouring mills for many years, in addition to extensive farming operations, and were prominent and influential citizens. Andrew J. died April 14, 1861, the sad day to the loyal north, of the surrender of Fort Sumter, after its heroic but hopeless defense by the gallant Major Anderson. Mr. and Mrs. McDermid have seven children: Mrs. Eva M. Woodworth of Pennfield; George W. McDermid, of Assyria, Barry county, a thriving farmer; Clara E. McDermid, teacher, Grange and Institute worker, at the old home; Mrs. Junia E. Pierce, Assyria; Herbert B. McDermid, mechanical engineer, Keokuk, Iowa; Fred C. McDermid, farmer at the old home; and Frank H. McDermid, horticultural expert, Missoula, Montana. Mr. McDermid has been a lifelong Republican, influential in his party, and in local enterprises; "Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before," he cannot now be other than a Progressive.

HENRY A. SHURTLEFF, M. D. Noteworthy among the successful physicians and surgeons of Calhoun county, Henry A. Shurtleff, M. D., has a long and valuable professional experience to his credit, and is now enjoying an excellent patronage in Marshall and its vicinity. He was born, September 7, 1857, in Washtenaw county, Michigan, near Ann Arbor, on the homestead of his father, Hon. Seldon Shurtleff, and is of substantial pioneer stock, his paternal grandparents having settled in Michigan in territorial days.

Born in Canadaigua, New York, Hon. Seldon Shurtleff lived there until twelve years old, when he came to the southern part of Michigan with his parents, and subsequently assisted his father in the arduous task of redeeming a farm from its original wildness. Selecting for his life occupation the independent work to which he was reared, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Washtenaw county, about five miles from Ann Arbor, and was there successfully engaged in general farming until his death, at the age of sixty-four years. A man of sound sense and good judgment, he became one of the foremost agriculturists of the county, and gained prominence in public affairs, having been one of the leading supporters of the Republican party. He held many offices of importance, representing his district in the state legislature one term, serving as a member of the Board of County Supervisors twelve years, and having been justice of the peace a number of terms. He died in 1887, his death being mourned as a loss to the community in which he had so long lived and labored. Hon. Seldon Shurtleff married Margaret Johnson, who was born in Canadaigua, New York, and died in Michigan, in June, 1890, having survived him three years. Six children were born of their union, Henry A., the subject of this brief sketch, having been the second child in succession of birth.

After completing the course of study at the Ann Arbor High School, Henry A. Shurtleff began preparing himself for a professional career under the tuition of Dr. Frothingham, a well-known physician, and subsequently entered the Medical Department of the University of Michigan, from which he was graduated with the degree of M. D., in the fall of 1879. Dr. Shurtleff immediately began practice with his former preceptor, Dr. Frothingham, in Ann Arbor, but after a time removed to Partello, where he remained for many years, having built up a large and remunerative practice. Coming from there to Marshall in 1909, the Doctor has ben equally as successful here, his patronage in the city and its suburbs being extensive and lucrative, his natural

Hosted by Google

talents, industry and skill classing him among the more able trustworthy physicians of this section of the county.

The Doctor is a member of the Calhoun County Medical Society, and of the Michigan State Medical Society. Fraternally he belongs to Saint Albans Lodge, No. 20, Free and Accepted Order of Masons; and to Lafayette Chapter, No. 4, Royal Arch Masons. In politics he affiliates with the Republican party. Dr. Shurtleff married Stella Thomas, who was born in South Haven, Michigan.

EDGAR H. GRANT. A man of sterling integrity and worth, possessing superior business ability and judgment, the late Edgar H. Grant was for many years actively and prominently identified with the best interests of Marshall, being an important factor in promoting its manufacturing and commercial interests, and in advancing its public welfare. He was born, July 18, 1854, in Marengo township, Calhoun county, a son of Lachlin Grant, and his death, which occurred June 21, 1908, deprived Marshall of one of its most useful and valued citizens.

Receiving his early education in the schools of his native district, he remained with his parents until sixteen years of age, when, in search for remunerative work, he came to Marshall. Energetic and ambitious, he had no trouble in securing good situations, and after being in the city three years entered the employ of Phelps & Dobbins, manufacturers of hot air furnaces, with whom he remained eleven years. The following seven years Mr. Grant was similarly employed on his own account, being in partnership in business with Mr. S. F. Dobbins. In the meantime, making use of his inventive talent and ability, Mr. Grant had been laborng to perfect a folding bath tub, which he had invented, and which he finally had patented. Mr. W. E. Bosley became interested in the invention, and a factory for the manufacture of these tubs was erected on South Kalamazoo avenue, Marshall, where it is still in operation, each year turning out a large number of combination folding bath tubs, which are readily sold in all the leading cities of the Union.

Taking a genuine interest in public matters, Mr. Grant filled various offices of trust and responsibility most ably and efficiently, giving the same care and attention to the welfare of the people that he did to his private interests. In 1894 he was elected as alderman from the Fourth ward, and served for two years, declining a re-election in 1897 in order that he might accept the nomination for mayor. Being elected to that high position, Mr. Grant held the mayor's chair two terms, during which time, in connection with Mr. George H. Southworth, he had the good fortune to secure to Marshall the Municipal Water Works Plant. The plant, which was then owned by an outside syndicate, had been placed in the hands of a receiver. The city had previously offered the owners $70,000 for the plant, the offer being refused by the syndicate. An advertisement stated that a receiver's sale would be held in June, and that one of the terms dictated that $15,000 in gold should be deposited before a bid would be accepted. Mr. Grant secured the aid of Mr. Southworth, who was on hand to comply with all requirements. The date of the sale was postponed until September, where Messrs. Grant and Southworth again stood ready to meet all demands, and were successful in securing the water works for the small sum of $42,000, which was about one-half its real value. Mr. Grant immediately brought the matter before the City Council, which confirmed the sale, and ordered the issuing of bonds to raise money to buy the plant from Mr. Southworth, who had paid the purchase price. During Mr. Grant's last

Hosted by Google

term as mayor, plans and specifications for a sewerage system throughout the city were adopted, his entire administration having been one of intelligent progress and civic improvement.

In 1901 Mr. Grant was appointed one of the electric light and water commissioners, and at his death was serving his seventh year as a member of the Board of Electric Light and Water Commissioners, for two years having been its chairman. While a member of that body, he induced the city to raise $16,000 in bonds to improve the electric light and water plants, and his idea of using electricity for power at the Water Works has already saved the city thousands of dollars.

Mr. Grant married, November 5th, 1877, Mary Jane Flemings, who, with their two sons, Royal F. and Glenn E., survive him. Fraternally Mr. Grant was a member of St. Albans Lodge, No. 20, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons; of Lafayette Chapter, No. 4, Royal Arch Masons; and of Marshall Commandery, No. 17, Knights Templar.

ROYAL F. GRANT. Energetic and enterprising, Royal F. Grant is an excellent representative of the successful business men of Marshall, and is well known throughout the city in connection with the Peerless Fixtures Company, of which he has been the secretary and treasurer since its formation. The oldest son of the late Edgar H. Grant, of whom a brief sketch appears elsewhere in this volume, he was born, November 11, 1878, in Marshall, Michigan, which has always been his home. He is of pioneer stock, his paternal grandfather, Lachlin Grant, having been an early settler of Marengo township, Calhoun county, in which the birth of Edgar H. Grant occurred.

Securing a fine record for scholarship as a boy, Royal F. Grant completed the course of study in the Marshall grammar and high schools, and in 1896 was graduated from Cleary's Commercial College, in Ypsilanti. Returning home after receiving his diploma, Mr. Grant entered the employ of his father, and continued with the Folding Bath Tub Company for several years. In June, 1909, he assisted in the organization of the Peerless Fixtures Company, which was incorporated under the state laws, with a capital of $25,000, with the following named officers: W. E. Bosley, president; G. E. Grant, vice-president; and Royal F. Grant, secretary and treasurer. This firm, which was established in 1890, and incorporated in 1909 is carrying on an extensive and highly lucrative business as designers and manufacturers of counters and fixtures, more especially for use in grocery and general stores, employing a large force of men in the factory, and selling its goods throughout the United States.

Following in the footsteps of his honored father, Mr. Grant is a Democrat in politics as far as state and national affairs are concerned, although in local matters he votes for the best men and measures regardless of party restrictions. For two years he served as city recorder, and is now chairman of the Electric and Water Board Commissioners, which is composed of two members beside himself, the others being Francis S. Deuel and Collin Sinclair. Fraternally Mr. Grant is a member of Marshall Lodge, No. 179, Knights of Pythias; and the Knights of the Maccabees; and St. Albans Lodge No. 20, A. F. & A. M.

In 1901 Mr. Grant was united in marriage with Grace Westfall, a daughter of Mrs. Mary E. Westfall, and they have one child, Myron E. Grant.

HENRY A. BUNNELL. Belonging to that class of men who have gained a position of import among their fellows through the exercise of their

Hosted by Google

own powers and abilities, Henry A. Bunnell, one of the leading farmers of Clarendon township, has been a resident of Michigan for about a half century. During this time he has witnessed marvelous changes in this part of the country, in seeing it grow from an untamed, timbered wilderness, to a prosperous farming community and center of education and commercial activity. Mr. Bunnell was born in the state of Pennsylvania and is a son of Stephen and Hannah (McCray) Bunnell also natives of the Keystone state. The father, who was born in 1819, was a son of William Bunnell, an early settler of Pennsylvania, who spent his last years there in agricultural pursuits. In 1862 Stephen Bunnell came to Michigan, setting first in Tuscola county, where for some years he was engaged in conducting a sawmill and in handling timber. In 1870 he went to Colorado to give his attention to mining, but during his latter years went to Massachusetts, and there his death occurred. In politics Stephen Bunnell was a Republican, but did not care for public office nor position. He and his wife, who was born in 1824, had a family of seven children, Henry A., of this review being the third in order of birth.

Henry A. Bunnell received his early education in the district schools and completed his training at Ypsilanti. He then taught school for a number of years and for six years was superintendent at Homer, subsequently removing to Carthage, Missouri, where he remained one year in school work. In the meantime he had carefully saved his wages, investing a little money judiciously, and in 1878 was able to make the first payment on a farm of one hundred and eighteen and a half acres. He pursues a course of mixed farming in connection with stock-feeding. His property has been greatly improved by the erection of good, substantial buildings, fitted with modern appurtenances, and the entire property gives evidence of the presence of excellent management. Mr. Bunnell is regarded as one of the substantial men of his community, and the able manner in which he has handled his own affairs has caused to be placed in his care the settling of a number of estates. This is evidence of the confidence in which he is held by those who know him, and that he has retained that confidence is clearly evident. A Republican in his political views, he has served as township inspector and member of the board of county school inspectors. He and Mrs. Bunnell are members of the Presbyterian church, she being especially active in religious work and belonging to a number of societies in connection with the work of the church. For some years she was engaged in teaching school in Homer, being a graduate of Mt. Holyoke Seminary, in Kalamazoo.

In 1875 Mr. Bunnell was married to Miss J. Emma French, a daughter of George H. French, who came to Calhoun county in 1835 and settled on a farm in Tekonsha township. In 1839 he moved to Homer, where he was engaged in mercantile business, from which he retired about two years prior to his death, which occurred in 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Bunnell have three children: George F., a traveling man whose home is in Fort Worth, Texas; Sarah Louise, who married Roy D. Gardner, cashier of the Calhoun County State Bank, of Homer; and Charles A., engaged in the tin and plumbing business at Homer.

LUKE R. HAUGHEY. At Kalamazoo, Michigan, lives a man whose life has been one of more than usual interest and adventure and continues to be remarkable in that, in the evening shadows now enveloping it, robustness of body is equalled by lucidity of mind. A veteran of two great wars in which the United States has participated, and an Indian fighter when the frontiers of civilization were threatened, Luke R. Haughey has a world of experiences to draw on, and to the present

Hosted by Google

generation these are more interesting, because personal, than the pages of romance.

Luke R. Haughey was born near Belfast, Ireland, May 15, 1820. When a lad of fifteen years he left his native land for America, two of his sisters also crossing the Atlantic Ocean but probably not at the same time. When he landed in the United States the Erie Canal across the State of New York to Buffalo, was in course of construction, then deemed a stupendous engineering feat, and the youth secured work and was more or less so employed as a canal laborer until 1846. In the meanwhile his sisters had acquired homes at Joliet, Illinois, and it was while on a visit to them that he was given a position as lock-tender on the canal at that point and there joined other young men when war with Mexico demanded that a military force should be sent to the border. He became a member of Company D, Sixth United States Infantry, which command was hurried to the front and landed at Point Isabel, near Vera Cruz, and then marched overland to join the forces of General Winfield Scott, at Puebla. The first real battle in which Mr. Haughey took part was that of Contreras, where, the American troops overcame the Mexicans and then marched on to Churubusco. The victories which followed the American army and the distinction which was won by its commanders, are matters of history, but the heroism and valor which made conquest possible, can never all be sufficiently told.

With the victorious army under General Scott went Private Haughey and it was in storming the defenses of the city of Chapultepec that he won admiration from his comrades for his daring. Perhaps there have been few more gallant and courageous attacks, in any subsequent war, than that made on the castle of Chapultepec. This fortification, guarding the gateway to the capital of Mexico, was located on a high rock and its situation, with its mighty stone parapets bristling with cannon, was supposed to be impregnable. Nevertheless it was apparent to General Scott that that castle must be reached and among the 500 men chosen from his command, on account of their known intrepidity, was Private Luke R. Haughey, and he was one of the one hundred volunteers who, with a ladder on his back, in the face of artillery, rushed down the hillside, and planted his ladder against the rocks. With a rush he, and his comrades, scaled the wall and fell upon the surprised Mexicans. The party had planned that half of the number should rush across the inside of the garrison and close the gates before the Mexicans could escape, while the troops were entering on the other side, and Mr. Haughey was one of the number who accomplished this dangerous mission. He became a marked man and had his capture been effected otherwise than on the day before General Scott took possession of the city of Mexico, he might not be living today in his ninety-second year, to modestly recall those historic days.

As a Mexican soldier, Mr. Haughey, after his two years of service, was entitled to a bounty of 160 acres of government land and this he proceeded to locate in the northeastern part of Kalamazoo county, Michigan. On this land he built a log house and having married some years previously, moved his family on it. In spite of this attempt at improvement, it was a wild and lonely spot. As a farmer Mr. Haughey was not particularly successful, never having been trained to agricultural pursuits and having a natural love of adventure and a somewhat roving spirit as so often is combined with great physical courage. In 1861, when a call resounded throughout the country for the gathering again of a great military force, Mr. Haughey found it irresistable and a few months afterward enrolled his name as a member of Company H, Seventh Michigan Volunteer Cavalry. Before he left for the front he

Hosted by Google

moved his wife and children back to their former home in Kalamazoo, with the thought that in the town she could better bear his absence and care for their little ones. This, however, did not prove to be the case for times were hard and although her courage and resourcefulness never failed, she soon realized that she must return to the desolate farm and there try, in some way, to provide food and raiment. None will ever fully know the heroism of her life. She strove and struggled with wind, weather, sickness and misfortune but with it all never lost her beautiful faith in an All-seeing, loving Heavenly Father, whose protecting care she daily, yes hourly, sought for her children. These children naturally, in their early years, had but meager educational opportunities, but this lack she patiently supplied as far as was in her power and the religious faith she implanted has never left them and they acknowledge its controlling force in their lives. The absence of her husband and his constant position of danger, was a source of constant distress and a son has tenderly and vividly told to others of his recollections of her, when she would return to the waiting family with a letter from her husband, after a walk of sixteen miles, to the post-office and back, to secure the precious message telling of his safety.

In the meanwhile Mr. Haughey was bravely and cheerfully performing a soldier's duties and during his three years of campaigning was never wounded, never sick for one day and was never out of the ranks for any purpose. He served in the army of the Potomac, under such commanders as Custer, Kilpatrick and Sheridan—great warriors all—and was present on many notable occasions, was in the battle of the Wilderness, participated in the mighty struggle and slaughter at Gettysburg, saw General Sheridan dash into Winchester and witnessed the surrender at Appomatox. With many testimonials as to his valor as a soldier and with the rank of first sergeant, Mr. Haughey returned once more to private life but scarcely remained long enough to take up home responsibilities before he joined his old commander, General Custer, in the West and took part in the Indian warfare that antedated the peaceful settlement of our western frontiers. He remained in the West for some time, fortunately returning just prior to the great tragedy on the Rosebud. Upon his return once more to his farm he again endeavored to adjust himself to agricultural life but it was difficult to gain the right perspective after so many years of absence and soldiering and his efforts at farming and stock raising did not succeed. A man may be a highest type of success in one career while in another he may be a complete failure. The time came when this hero of 130 battles was dependent upon his government pension as his sole independent source of income, a pension justly earned and all too small in consideration of his public services.

In 1853, at Kalamazoo, Michigan, Luke R. Haughey was married to Miss Mary Talbott, who was born in County Kildare, Ireland, February 11, 1835, and died in Kalamazoo, Michigan, November 2, 1906, when aged seventy-one years. Her father was a man of comfortable means in Ireland but he was led to believe that the United States offered still better advantages for his children, and hence, in 1838 he disposed of his possessions in County Kildare, and with his family came to America and located in what was then the small hamlet of Brunson, which has developed into the city of Kalamazoo, Michigan. In many ways both he and wife were unprepared for the conditions that met them and in a short time both died, six children surviving them, Mrs. Haughey being then eleven years old. Through misplaced confidence she never received any portion of the forty-acre farm her father had bought and improved. From the above early age until her marriage she provided

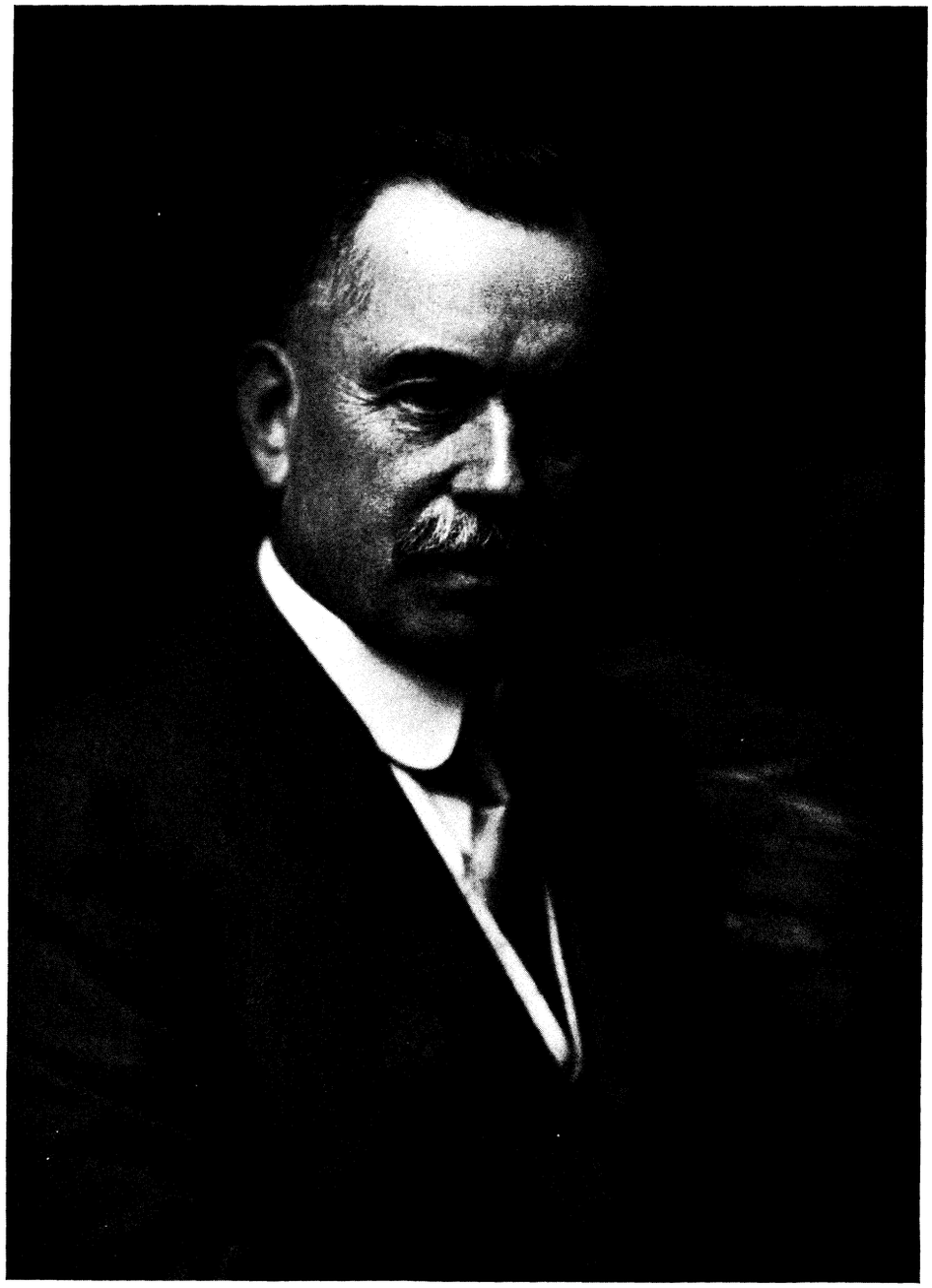
Hosted by Google

for her own necessities while attending school and as a young woman was noted for her beauty, her household capacity and her deep seated piety, a fervent, trustful and devoted member of the Roman Catholic Church until the close of her life. To this marriage nine children were born but only seven reached mature years, these being: Mrs. Anna Baumann, who is a resident of Kalamazoo, Michigan; W. H., who is a prominent physician and surgeon at Battle Creek, Michigan; Mrs. Ellen Bellenger, who survived marriage but a short time; Minnie, who is the wife of Dr. Grace, a physician in practice in Oklahoma; J. Charles, who is in business at Tonica, Illinois; and Mrs. William Clark, of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Haughey passed the anniversary of their fiftieth year of marriage but no celebration was held as at that time the health of Mrs. Haughey was precarious. The life of Mr. Haughey has bridged a great span in the history of his country and, venerable as he is, he still takes a keen interest in all that concerns its welfare, not deeming himself any hero, but nevertheless our present peace and prosperity rest on just what such men accomplished in the earlier day.

W. H. HAUGHEY, M. D. In the professions that make up a notable element of public life and usefulness, at Battle Creek, Michigan, that of medicine and surgery, as elsewhere, occupies a foremost place, and in no section of the country has scientific progress been more eagerly followed or more intelligently adopted. Old ideas and antiquated methods no longer rule the profession here, and there are practioners at Battle Creek who have accomplished much in promulgating general medical knowledge along lines of their own scientific discoveries, and have performed miracles in surgical practice. A credit to his profession and an honor to his community in his enthusiasm, good citizenship, moral standards and personal life, whose twenty-four years of continuous residence here has been one of usefulness and beneficence, Dr. W. H. Haughey, secretary of the board of councilors of the Michigan State Medical Society, may justly claim attention.

Dr. Haughey was born at Kalamazoo, Michigan, July 6, 1856, and is a son of Luke R. and Mary (Talbott) Haughey. The father was born near Belfast, Ireland, May 15, 1820, and still survives, a veteran of two wars in the United States and a hero in both. The mother was born in County Kildare, Ireland, near the Dublin line, February 11, 1835, and her life closed at Kalamazoo, Michigan, November 2, 1906, when her age was seventy-one years. Of this mother, who was a woman of rare character and of wifely and parental devotion beyond compare, her son has said: "All that I ever have been, all that I now am, all that I ever may be, I owe to my mother." Her parents came from Ireland to America in 1838, settling at what is now Kalamazoo, Michigan, but later moving on a small farm. Her mother died shortly afterward and at the age of eleven years she was fatherless. Her childhood was thus burdened with grief but perhaps the hard discipline of those early years partially strengthened her for the bearing of sorrows yet to come. At the age of eighteen years she married and became the mother of nine children. Circumstances entirely beyond her control brought about hardship and privation during their youth, military service kept her husband from the home fireside through many years of anxiety, and it was not until age had reached her that peace and comfort came upon her. A devoted and faithful member of the Roman Catholic Church, she was not only diligent in her own religious life but set the example and explained the precepts which her children benefitted by and which have supported them in times of stress. Of her nine children seven lived to maturity, these being: Mrs. Anna Bauman, of Kalamazoo,

Hosted by Google



Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Michigan; W. H., of Battle Creek; Mrs. Charles L. Yeo, of Battle Creek; Mrs. Ellen Bellenger, who died soon after her marriage; Minnie, who is the wife of Dr. Grace, of Oschelata, Oklahoma; J. Charles, of Tonica, Illinois; and Mrs. William Clark, of Kalamazoo, where all were born and educated.

Luke R. Haughey left Ireland when he was fifteen years of age and after reaching the United States worked on the Erie Canal then being constructed between Albany and Buffalo, New York. He was sent to Joliet, Illinois, as lock-keeper on the canal there and from that point he enlisted for service in the Mexican War, his commander being General Winfield Scott. For two years he served in Mexico and gained distinction for his valor. At the battle of the city of Mexico he was taken prisoner but as the United States troops entered the city on the following day, his imprisonment was speedily ended. After he returned to Kalamazoo his marriage took place and as he was entitled to a bounty of 160 acres of government land in Kalamazoo county, he settled on that and partly cleared it. When civil war was precipitated he again awoke the military ardor and enlisted as a private in Company H. Seventh Michigan Cavalry, in the army of the Potomac, in which he served for three years. After the close of the Civil War he accompanied one of his old commanders, General Custer to the Indian country and had returned to his family just prior to the massacre on the Rosebud. For some years he lived on his farm in Ross township, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, but his present home is with his daughter, Mrs. William Clark, at Kalamazoo.

W. H. Haughey attended school in Kalamazoo county in boyhood and youth and later, when his choice of career had been made, entered the Detroit College of Medicine and completed his medical education in that well known institution. In the spring of 1888 he came to Battle Creek to enter into practice and here he has remained, building up his reputation as a medical practitioner and skillful surgeon and making and cementing connections with all that is important and pleasant in the city's life. In his professional connections he has frequently been honored by different bodies. He has served the city one term as health officer; belongs to the American Medical Association; is a member and for nine successive years was secretary of the Calhoun county Medical Society, and for ten years has been secretary of the council of the Michigan State Medical Society. He has long been identified with the Knights of Columbus.

Dr. Haughey was married August 6, 1879, in St. Augustine Church, Kalamazoo, Michigan, to Miss Elizabeth E. Converse, who is a daughter of William H. and Sarah (Cooley) Converse. The parents of Mrs. Haughey were early settlers in Ross township, Kalamazoo county, where they still reside, being now in the enjoyment of the home comforts which their earlier efforts provided. Both are natives of New York, the father having been born in Cayuga county, not far from Jordan, New York, February 14, 1826, and the mother in the same vicinity, July 6, 1835. To Dr. and Mrs. Haughey five sons and one daughter have been born, namely: Wilfrid, who is a practicing physician at Battle Creek, with office with his father, in the Kapp Block, No. 24 Main street, West; Charles B., who has resided on his plantation in Cuba, since 1905, was married in that island; Anna W., who fills the position of license clerk in the city recorder's office; Walter J., who is superintendent of the Buick Auto Company, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Louis J., who is in the sales department of the above firm at Buffalo, New York; and Frank, who is a student in the Battle Creek High School. All the children were pupils in the parochial schools when young and several are high

Hosted by Google

school graduates. The family residence is at No. 24 Poplar street, Battle Creek. Dr. Haughey and family are members of St. Philip's Roman Catholic Church at Battle Creek.

GALUSHA E. LAMB. A man of undoubted business sense and qualifications, Galusha E. Lamb, head of the firm of G. E. Lamb & Son, at Marshall, is carrying on a substantial trade as a dealer in lumber, coal, and builder's material of all kinds, being an active and influential factor in advancing the mercantile prosperity of this part of Calhoun county. A native of Michigan, he was born, April 1, 1842, in Fenton, Genesee county, and there grew to manhood.

His father, Hiram L. Lamb, was born in Wayne county, New York, a son of Peter Lamb, a prosperous farmer, who was descended from one of three brothers named Lamb, who emigrated from England to the United States, one settling in Massachusetts, one in New York, and in Ohio, the latter having been, without doubt, the Peter Lamb that located in Fairfield county, that state, in colonial days. Hiram L. Lamb learned the trade of a millwright when young, and subsequently located in Michigan, where he followed his chosen occupation many years. Having a thorough acquaintance with every detail relating to his trade, he built many of the flouring mills and saw mills between Pontiac and Genesee, in each mill installing all of the necessary machinery. He spent his last days retired from active work, passing away in 1894. His wife, whose maiden name was Martha Eldred, was born in Wayne county, New York, and died in Genesee county, Michigan, in 1875.

Laying a good foundation for his future education in the common schools of Fenton, Michigan, G. E. Lamb continued his studies in the Literary Department of the Ypsilanti College, after which he took a commercial course at Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College, in Detroit. The following five years Mr. Lamb conducted a general store at Saint Johns, Michigan. Selling out at an advantage, he went to Stanton, Montcalm county, where for seventeen years he carried on a good business as lumber manufacturer and dealer. Wishing to enlarge his operations, Mr. Lamb formed a partnership with Lewis Thompson, of Saginaw, Michigan, and was there in business as a member of the firm of Thompson, Lamb & Company from 1890 until 1903. Disposing of his Saginaw property in the latter year, Mr. Lamb moved with his family to Marshall, where he had financial interests in several lumber yards, in this part of the county, and here he has since built up a very large and ever increasing trade, being senior member of the well-known firm of G. E. Lamb & Son. This firm carries an extensive and well selected stock of lumber and builders' supplies, including all distinction in both sides of his house, and with traditions and examples judiciously to the affairs of the township greatly to his own credit materials used in building, and also dealing in coal.

Fraternally Mr. Lamb belongs to Saginaw Lodge, No. 77, Free and Accepted Order of Masons, of which he is past master. He invariably supports the principles of the Republican party at the polls, but has never been an aspirant for official favors. He is fond of outdoor sports, his special delight in the way of recreation is to go with his rod and tackle to some nearby lake, where he can sport with the finny tribe, the catching of bass being the most exciting and amusing entertainment which he can imagine.

Mr. Lamb married, in 1866, Oracy M. Marlatt, daughter of Murray Marlatt, a prosperous agriculturist of Farmington, Oakland county, Michigan. Two children have blessed their union, namely: Mary L.,

Hosted by Google

wife of S. C. Jackson, now of Seattle, Washington; and George M., junior member of the firm of G. E. Lamb & Son.

COLLIN SINCLAIR. Endowed by nature with much mechanical ability, keen perceptive faculties, and a resolute spirit, Collin Sinclair has won unquestioned success in his chosen occupation of a railroad carpenter, and is now living retired from active pursuits in Marshall, Calhoun county, having a pleasant home at No. 333 North Linden street. Coming from honored New England ancestry, he was born, May 7, 1856, in Manchester, New Hampshire.

His father, Collin Sinclair, Sr., was a New Hampshire railroad man in early life, for awhile resided in Lowell, Massachusetts, working at his trade of a boiler maker. Coming to Michigan, he was employed in the Michigan Central Railroad shops at Marshall for a number of years, and subsequently lived retired until his death. His wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Radford, outlived him many years, passing away in 1902. She was the mother of three children, of whom Collin is the only survivor.

Having acquired a practical education in the common and high schools, Collin Sinclair began his active career as soon as through with his early studies, for a number of years thereafter being employed in the bridge department of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. Returning to Marshall, Mr. Sinclair was here similarly employed for awhile, later superintending the building of the Cincinnati, Jackson and Mackinac, now the D. T. and M., continuing with that company for twenty years. Later accepting a position with the Santa Fe Railroad Company, Mr. Sinclair located at Temple, Texas, where he remained one year, at first having control of the building of tracks and bridges, but afterwards serving as general railway master, having under his direction about thirteen hundred men along the different lines. Returning north, Mr. Sinclair had charge of the building of the Lima & Northern shops at Tecumseh, and in 1909, when he retired from railroad work, settling in Marshall. A man of sterling integrity and worth, Mr. Sinclair has won well-deserved success by his thorough mastery of his chosen work, and fidelity to his trusts, the respect in which he is held throughout his community giving evidence of his upright and manly life. He was formerly owner of two valuable farms, but those he has sold, his financial interests being now centered in Marshall.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Sinclair was elected a member of the Electric Light and Water Board Commission, and is now serving as its chairman. Fraternally he belongs to Marshall Lodge, No. 179, Knights of Pythias, of which he was a charter member.

In June, 1890, Mr. Sinclair was united in marriage with Miss Bertha Wirtz, of Marshall, Michigan, and they have one child, Edna M. Sinclair.

LYMAN PITTEE. When the death of Lyman Pittee occurred Battle Creek lost a citizen who had aided materially in making her the beautiful city she is today. He came to this part of the country in pioneer times and, without money or property, set to work to make a success out of his life. He suffered numerous reverses, his mill being twice destroyed by fire but with indomitable pluck he went forward, with a serene trust in the God he served and a belief that all would be well in the end. He built some of the finest homes in the city, and the present condition of these structures is a striking proof of the honesty and uprightness of the man. He has left behind him monuments that will last for many years yet, and how many builders of the present

Hosted by Google

flimsy structures can be sure of such a reward of labor. Although he never complained of the buffets he received from the hand of Fate, the struggle evidently was too much for him, for he was not an old man at the time of his death. A fitting tribute was paid to his work and to his noble character, at the time of his death, in the text from which his funeral sermon was preached "Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?"

Lyman Pittee was born in Pike, Wyoming county, in the state of New York, on the 19th of February, 1821. His boyhood was spent in the state of New York, and it was when Battle Creek was a tiny village that he came to Michigan. This was in 1843 and he and his two brothers, all of whom were carpenters by trade, had to face all the privations of life on the frontier. At this time letters were sent on the C. O. D. plan and a letter from home cost twenty-five cents. Often they went to the postoffice, knowing that if a letter was waiting for them they could not have it because they did not have the money. In fact few people in the little settlement did have any money in those days and work was poorly paid, though prices were exorbitant. The brothers struggled on and such courage and perseverance as theirs could not fail to meet with success. Hiram went into the employ of the Nichols and Shepard company and remained with them until his death. Silas continued at the building trade until his last illness. Lyman took advantage of the fine water power at the corner of Jackson street and Jefferson avenue, and built a large planing mill here. This is now the site of the Turner property. The mill began to prosper, and times were becoming easier for Mr. Pittee when the mill burned to the ground one night and not only the building itself was lost but all of the valuable and costly machinery. The loss was great and Mr. Pittee was staggered at first but only for the moment. With splendid courage he rebuilt and for two years the busy hum from his sash, door and blind factory was heard. Then this too, met with destruction by fire. The excessive rates for insurance in those days had made it impossible for him to carry any on either of the structures which had been destroyed, but when he built for the third time he took out an insurance policy. He never fully recovered from the effects of these heavy losses, but he was still the same cheerful man, whose presence was a welcome one in the homes of so many people.

He continued after the destruction of his mill to work as a contractor and builder, and among the most important of his contracts, though the buildings that he erected might be numbered by the scores, are the following: the home of Dr. Spencer and that of the Neale Brothers, on West Van Buren street; the Miss Roe home on Green street; the brick residence on the corner of Yuba and Marshall streets; the Peter Hoffmaster home, the O. S. Clark residence on East Main street and his own beautiful and costly residence at the corner of East Main and Pittee streets; the Mayor Zelinsky, Foster and Hickman properties on Bennett street, the flat adjoining his own home on Pittee street, the properties of ex-Mayor Green and Mr. La Fever on Marshall avenue, the Bathrick home on Upton avenue, all of which were handsome and well planned residences, even before the installing of the modern improvements that were not then in existence. In repairing these homes and putting in electric lights and plumbing, the carpenters have found lumber used that nowadays would be nearly priceless or at least beyond the reach of the person of moderate means, showing how conscientious Mr. Pittee was in all of the work that he did. Worn out by a life time of toil, he died on the 27th of February, 1889. The following is an extract taken from an issue of one of the newspapers,

Hosted by Google

published at the time of his death: "Mr. Lyman Pittee, whose death occurred early Wednesday morning, after an illness of several months was born in Pike, Wyoming county, New York. He came to Michigan in 1843. He at once entered upon that business career which in time made him one of the men of mark in our community. What he lacked in means he made up in perseverance. He met with business reverses and repeated losses by fire, but he met them in that brave, determined spirit which plucks victory from the jaws of defeat, and while he never fully recovered from these losses he did what was far better, and rare under the circumstances; he maintained his honor and paid his honest debts. He took a deep interest in the prosperity of Battle Creek, and did what he could to advance its interests materially and morally. He was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and for more than forty years was connected with its officiary either as steward or trustee. He held the latter office at the time of his death.

He was a man of strong convictions politically; originally a Whig, he very naturally became a Republican when that party was organized, and to that party he remained true to the last. The only time he was out of his house, for six months prior to his death, was when he was taken in a cab to the polls, to vote for General Harrison.

"He had his share of domestic affliction, having lost two wives and three children by death. His second wife and her only child, a bright little boy, died within two weeks of each other. Mrs. Lina A. Benedict, of Brooklyn, New York, is the only surviving child of his first marriage, and Clarence H. Pittee, the only one of his last union.

"His strong frame and indomitable will held death at bay for many months; he only yielded to the inevitable. A man of less strength and resolution must have succumbed long before. He was brave and patient throughout his long illness. If he expected to live he said little about it and still less about death, he was not a man to shirk the one or fear the other. His trust was in the Lord Jesus Christ, and more than once he expressed perfect acquiesence in the Divine will. His mind was bright and clear to the last. His last words to his weeping family were 'All be good.'

"His funeral was held from the Methodist church Friday afternoon, and notwithstanding the storm, was largely attended. The pew he had occupied regularly for twenty-nine years was vacant and draped in mourning. The funeral sermon by Reverend James Hamilton, from II Samuel, third chapter, thirty-eighth verse, though eulogistic of a strong man's character was not over drawn or undeserved. The floral offerings, the singing and the ritual services were all in keeping with the proprieties and the solemnities of the occasion. Thus one after another of our pioneer citizens are passing away, may those who succeed them be as noble and as upright as they."

The widow of Lyman Pittee now resides at the old home at 185 East Main street. She was Charlotte Dwinnell, and her marriage to Mr. Pittee took place on the 13th of September, 1859. She is the daughter of the late Henry L. Dwinnell. Her father and his brother were closely connected with the history of the town of Wheatfield, which is situated in the Kalamazoo river valley, and is surrounded by some of the richest lands in the state of Michigan. In 1831, during the month of August, the two Dwinnell brothers took up the land, which later became the town site. The farm upon which they located had at one time been an old Indian village, and the burying ground and the corn fields were near by. During the early days of the white race in this country the farm had been the site of a French trading post, and a number of graves of these French settlers were found. Each of these graves had

Hosted by Google

little pens built of poles around them, and at the head was a wooden cross. Henry Dwinnell was the first person to be married in Emmett township. He married Celista L. Warren, a daughter of Stephen Warren. The ceremony took place on the 18th of December, 1834, and the justice of the peace, who performed the ceremony was Benjamin T. Dwinnell, the brother of the groom. The first bridge across the Kalamazoo river in this township was one built of poles, by the Dwinnell brothers. Mrs. Pittee, having a father who was so active in the early days of the state, has a right to feel a very real interest in the affairs of the community. She is proud of the work that her father and his family did in the building of the state, and no less proud of the record which her husband left behind him. Her only surviving child, Clarence H. Pittee, who is route agent for the National Express Company, lives in his home next to his mother's at 10 Pittee street. Her daughter Mrs. O. A. Allen died very suddenly, while apparently in the best of health, leaving two children. Louise M. is now the wife of Frank W. Calvert who is connected with the post-office in Battle Creek. The son Charles H. Allen lives with his grandmother, Mrs. Pittee.

JERVIS H. WATTLES, M. D. In point of years of consecutive practice in Battle Creek Dr. Wattles is now the city's oldest active representative of the profession which he has signally dignified and honored by his character and services, and he has long held precedence as one of the distinguished physicians and surgeons of this section of the state, even as he has stood for the highest ideals of citizenship and has retained secure place in the confidence and affectionate regard of the community in which he has lived and labored with much of self-abnegation and with great ability, his circle of friends in Calhoun county being coincident with that of his acquaintances and few citizens being better known. For nearly half a century has he been engaged in active professional work in Battle Creek and the surrounding country, and while in recent years he has attempted to retire in large degree from his arduous labors he has found it impossible to resist the demands of many of the families to whom he has ministered long and faithfully and by whom he is regarded as "guide, philosopher and friend." He has achieved specially high reputation as a surgeon and has been a close observer of the highest ethical code of his profession. Further interest attaches to his career by reason of the fact that he is a native son of Michigan and a scion of a family whose name has been identified with the annals of the state since the territorial epoch in its history.

Dr. Wattles was born in Troy township, Oakland county, Michigan, on the 7th of September, 1840, and is a son of Harper and Emeline (Dewey) Wattles, the former of whom was born at Binghamton, Broome county, New York, and the latter at Franklin, Delaware county, that state. The parents were numbered among the sterling pioneers of Oakland county, Michigan, where they established their home in 1837, the year which marked the admission of Michigan as one of the sovereign states of the Union. The lineage of the Wattles family is traced back to staunch Scotch origin, and the original orthography of the name was McWattles, this being retained by the founders of the family in America, where the prefix was eliminated from the name, which has been linked with the history of the nation from the colonial era.

Alexander Wattles, grandfather of the Doctor, first came to Michigan in 1835, making the trip by way of the Erie canal to Buffalo, where he purchased a pony, which he rode through Canada to Windsor, from which point he crossed on the ice over the Detroit river to Detroit, on

Hosted by Google

Christmas day of that year. He made his way into Oakland county, to explore the district in search of land, but he was not at the time pleased with the conditions and opportunities presented, with the result that he returned to Detroit, from which point he rode his pony through to Chicago, which great western metropolis was then represented by Fort Dearborn and the few log buildings surrounding the same. From Chicago he returned to Oakland county, Michigan, where he finally took up a tract of government land, in Troy township, but he did not remove his family to this new home in a virtual wilderness until 1837. Both he and his wife passed the closing years of their lives in Oakland county, and he was eighty-four years of age at the time of his death. He became a citizen of prominence and influence in the county, did much to foster its civic and industrial development and at one time served as its representative in the state legislature. Both he and his wife were devout members of the Baptist church, and in the early days, in the absence of a regular clergyman, he frequently occupied the pulpit and gave earnest sermons. Of his five sons and five daughters, none are now living. The youngest of the sons, Silas B., died from accident July 2, 1912 aged 84, still owning and residing upon the old homestead farm.

Harper Wattles, father of the Doctor, came with other members of the family to Oakland county in 1837, the members of the party and the household goods being transported by way of the Erie canal to Buffalo and thence by sailing vessel on Lake Erie to Detroit, from which point the transfer to the new home in Oakland county was made by means of team and wagon. He became prominently identified with early development and progress in southern Michigan and devoted considerable attention to work as a civil engineer, in which he had much proficiency. He had assisted in the construction of the Erie canal, and after coming to Michigan he was engaged for two years in the work of surveying for the canal from Mount Clemens to Benton Harbor across the state. In these operations he was assistant to John B. Jervis, who was a man of much ability and prominence at the time and in whose honor the subject of this review was named. Harper Wattles continued to be successfully identified with agricultural pursuits and other interests in Oakland county for many years, but his health became much impaired and he passed the closing years of his life in the home of his son Dr. Jervis H., in Battle Creek, where he died at the age of sixty-four years, his loved and devoted wife having passed away in Oakland county, at the age of forty-four years and both having been zealous members of the Baptist church. The remains of both rest in the cemetery of their old home township in Oakland county. They became the parents of three children, of whom Dr. Wattles is the eldest; Emma G. is the widow of Eugene Harbeck, and resides in Chicago, the youngest of the number, Ralph D. Wattles, resides in Battle Creek. Dr. Wattles gained his early education in the common schools of his native county and after due preliminary discipline along academic lines he entered the medical department of the University, which he attended during the years 1864 and 1865. He then returned to Oakland county and engaged in the practice of his profession in the village of Birmingham, in the meanwhile continuing his medical studies. In the autumn of 1865 he entered the Cleveland Medical College, at Cleveland, Ohio, the medical department of the Western Reserve University, and there he distinguished himself by special proficiency in all branches, so that he was graduated with high honors, as a member of the class of 1866. In addition to the regular curriculum he pursued a thorough course in the manual of operative surgery, under Professor Milton

Hosted by Google

J. Woodworth, and he was in this connection one of the first class in this or any other medical institution to receive separate diplomas for qualification in special surgery. His precedence in the knowledge of anatomy obtained him further recognition, as during his college course he served for a portion of the time as demonstrator of anatomy.

After receiving his well earned degree of Doctor of Medicine, Dr. Wattles returned to Birmingham, where he continued in successful practice until May, 1868, when he came to Battle Creek, which has continued the stage of his protracted and notably successful work in his profession during the long intervening years. No local physician and surgeon has attained to a higher degree of success and prestige and none is held in higher esteem in the community. An idea of the extent of his service in a professional way may be gained from the statement that he has been present as attending physician at the birth of fully two thousand children, and that he has thus ministered in ushering into the world children of a goodly number at whose birth he likewise attended. He is striving to retire from the more exacting work of his profession, but there are a number of the older families and loyal friends who will consent to having no other physician.

Dr. Wattles has within recent years in connection with his brother, Ralph D. Wattles started a model fruit farm, which is situated four miles west of the city, in Bedford township, and which is being conducted on thoroughly scientific lines. He takes great interest in this place, and has over one thousand fruit trees of different varieties, and in attending to the "Wattles Fruit Farm," as it is known, he finds both recreation and satisfaction. In politics the Doctor has ever given stalwart allegiance to the Republican party; he is a charter member of A. T. Metcalf Lodge, No. 419, Free & Accepted Masons; and is a zealous and liberal member of the Independent Congregational church, of which his wife likewise was a zealous adherent. During his long years of practice he has kept in touch with the advances made in both medical and surgical sciences and has availed himself of the most approved methods and remedial agents.

On the 4th of November, 1863, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Wattles to Mrs. Caroline Whitney, who was born and reared at Oneida, New York, and who came in her girlhood to Michigan, her father, the late David Seymour, having been one of the honored pioneers of Oakland county. Mrs. Wattles was a woman of most gentle and gracious personality and her memory is revered by all who came within the sphere of her influence. She was summoned to the life eternal on the 14th of January, 1905, and is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Eudora E. Webb, who was born in Birmingham, Michigan, and whose home is now located near the old homestead of her father, at 116 North avenue, the latter having been the residence of the Doctor since 1876 and his loved wife having made it a center of most refined and gracious hospitality. Mrs. Webb has one son, Jervis B., who was graduated in the mechanical engineering department of the University of Michigan in June, 1912, and who is destined to achieve marked success in his chosen profession. He was president of the Delta Upsilson fraternity at the University at the time of his graduation, and now holds an important position in a new field of "Acoustical Engineering" with the Johns Mansvill Co., of New York City.

BERNARD J. ONEN. Of the younger members of the bar in Calhoun county, Bernard J. Onen is one of the most prominent. He has practiced for a little over ten years, and has succeeded in building up a practice which an older lawyer might envy. He is a clean, wholesome

Hosted by Google

young man, of the best type that our big universities turn out, and who in themselves are irrefutable proofs of the fallacy of the late Mr. Crane's remarks concerning college and university men. He is ardently enthusiastic over his work, and his personal charm has had much to do with his success. He has much tact, and yet is frank and open in all of his dealings. His training for his profession was very thorough and he has never ceased to study and to keep abreast of the times. He is of Irish descent and inherited two of his most striking characteristics from this parentage, his wit and his love of a good fight. He is a fighter to the last gasp, and when he is enlisted in an affair he will never give up until the case is absolutely settled one way or another. This fondness for battle, as well as his belief that every man should take an active part in politics or at least as far as possible, has led him into the political field. He has been as successful a politician as a lawyer, and further triumphs are waiting him in the former capacity.

Bernard J. Onen was born at Dowagiac, Michigan on the 20th of January, 1878. His father was James Onen and his mother was Cecelia (Duffy) Onen. Both of his parents were born in New York state and both were of Irish blood. His mother has been dead for twenty-two years, but his father is still living. His parents were married in the state of New York and came out to Michigan about 1856 or 1858. His father has been interested in various industries, at different times. He has been a miller and interested in the meat business, and he now is in the hardware business at Dowagiac. He is a fine old man, of that sturdy class who have spent their lives helping to make Michigan a great commonwealth, and although we are now beginning to give the credit that is due them to that first group of early pioneers who opened up the land and first ran a plough through the soil, we are in danger of forgetting that those who followed somewhat later, also had much to do with the industrial, and commercial development of the country. Bernard Onen was the youngest of five, the other children being Mary, Frances, Dennis H. and Helen. All four live at home, and Bernard is the only one of the family who is married.

His early education was received in the public schools of his native town, and he was graduated from the high school in 1896. He received his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1900, having spent three years at Ann Arbor. He was admitted to the bar the same year that he was graduated, the scene of this event being Ann Arbor, Michigan. In November of this same year he came to Battle Creek and went into practice. He entered the office of Hulbert and Mechem, leading firm of old practitioners, and started in by himself in March, 1902. He had the necessary self confidence, and learned the lessons that all young men have to learn by experience. He has had his offices in the Post building for practically the whole time, and his practice has been general.

In politics Mr. Onen is Republican, and in the campaign of 1912, he takes an active interest, and is willing to do his share for the grand old party. He has represented his fellow citizens as alderman from the Third ward, and during the four years, from 1904 to 1908, in which he served, he was ever ready to back any bill or movement that was progressive, or beneficial to the people. He is greatly in demand in the social world of Battle Creek, and is a member of the Athelstan Club and of the Elks.

On the 20th of April, 1906, the marriage ceremony was performed between Bernard Onen and Miss Louise C. Crispell. The bride was the daughter of Theora and Alice H. (Hamblin) Crispell. Her parents were old residents of Battle Creek, and her grandfather, Alexander C.

Hosted by Google

Hamblin, was one of Battle Creek's first bankers and did much to build up the town in a commercial way. Mrs. Onen was born on the site where the Post building now stands. She was educated in Battle Creek and in New Mexico, where her father spent fourteen years in an attempt to regain his health. He was finally forced to give up the struggle and died in that far away state. On coming back to Michigan, Mrs. Onen attended the Sherwood Conservatory of Music in Chicago, and is an accomplished musician. Her mother is still living, and she and Mr. Onen are the parents of a little baby girl, who was born in Battle Creek, on the 5th of September, 1910. The residence of Mr. Onen is 130 Frelinghuysen avenue, and his offices are 303 Post building.

JOHN F. HALLADAY. Few families have been longer and more ac- days. In the present generation the name is most familiarly associated tively identified with the interests of Calhoun county than the Halla- with the flourishing wholesale grocery concern of J. F. Halladay & Son at Battle Creek, but back in the pioneer times the men of this name were also widely known as successful farmers and land owners.

Calvin Halladay, the grandfather of the late John F. Halladay, was the founder of the family in this county, and was the original owner of an entire section of land in Bedford township, where by his enterprise and pioneer endeavor he helped promote the material development of this county out of the conditions of the wilderness. One of his sons was James C. Halladay, who died at Battle Creek in 1872, and he in turn was the father of John F. Halladay.

At his death on May 8, 1895, John F. Halladay had attained conspicuous business success and a place of high honor among his associates and in the community. Fifty years of age when his career closed, he was born in Battle Creek in 1845. After a few years spent in school he began the serious work of life at an early age, both in the fields on his father's farm and in his brick yard. He was still a youth when he and his brother, Austin S., engaged in the retail grocery business, with which he was identified for thirteen years. In 1882 he became the representative for the sale of the Standard Oil Company's products in this territory, and continued in this business until his death. In 1885 he established the wholesale grocery which has had such an important position in the larger trade of Battle Creek for over a quarter of a century, and he himself was the active head of the business until his death. The original location of this establishment was at 41 East Main street. By legitimate and honorable business methods he acquired material independence, and throughout his career had a reputation for just and considerate dealings with all men.

He was a member of the St. Thomas Episcopal church, and his politics was Republican. A charter member and prominent in the Knights of Pythias lodge, he served as representative to the grand lodge. His wife, whose maiden name was Caroline M. Squire, a daughter of Daniel Squire, died on May 8, 1896, just one year after her husband and within fifteen minutes of the same hour as his death occurred. They were the parents of two children: Frank E., whose sketch is given below; and Blanche E., the wife of Hilliard Lyle, of Detroit.

FRANK E. HALLADAY, son of the late John F. and Caroline M. (Squire) Halladay, is joint owner with his sister (Mrs. Hilliard Lyle) of the wholesale grocery at 54-58 East Main street which for many years has been conducted under the name of J. F. Halladay & Son.

Mr. Halladay was born in Battle Creek, June 16, 1865, and is the great-grandson of the Halladay who in 1837 settled in Battle Creek, his

Hosted by Google

being the seventh family to locate in this little community. As a boy he attended the local schools and after his graduation joined his father in the business which the latter had established largely for the benefit of this son. For several years the wholesale house was conducted under the name of J. F. Halladay, until 1889, when the present title was adopted. Frank E. Halladay had a thorough business training, and through his energy and commercial initiative has made this establishment rank high among the jobbing houses of southern Michigan. He and his sister own the property in which the business is conducted and also the adjoining Halladay Inn Hotel, besides other real estate in the city.

One of the progressive citizens, he has co-operated with the movements for the commercial and civic upbuilding of his home city, and for four years held the office of alderman from the fourth ward. In politics he is Republican. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Elks, and of the Athelstan Club. His home is at 158 Fremont street.

Mr. Halladay was married October 17, 1887, to Miss Jennie Louise Hunsiker. She is a native of Bellvue, Michigan, where her parents, now deceased, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hunsiker, were one of the pioneer families. At the time of his death her father was in the general merchandise business at Bellvue. Mrs. Halladay received her education in that town, and there she was married. The three sons born to Mr. and Mrs. Halladay are all preparing to take an active part in the wholesale grocery business. They are Clare E., Robin E. and John F. They received their schooling here in Battle Creek, the first two being graduates of the high school, and the youngest being still in school.

ALBERT N. FORD. A successful counselor at law and the present circuit court commissioner, Albert N. Ford has been identified with his profession in Battle Creek for the past six years, and has an influential place in the affairs of this city.

Mr. Ford is a native of Battle Creek, born here January 17, 1882. His father is Duane D. Ford, who for more than thirty years has conducted a real estate business here. His mother, whose death occurred October 4, 1910, was Mrs. Sadie H. (Avery) Ford. Both parents were natives of Bellvue, Michigan, and soon after their marriage they moved to Battle Creek. Before their marriage the father was a steward for the Goodrich Transportation Company on the lakes, with his headquarters in Chicago, but since locating in Battle Creek he has given most of his attention to real estate and insurance. Of the two children, the other is Mrs. C. E. Patterson, of Toledo, Ohio. She received her education in the St. Mary's convent at Monroe, this state, being graduated from that school.

From the Battle Creek high school, where he was a member of the class of 1901, Albert N. Ford went to the Michigan Military Academy at Orchard Lake, one year, and then entered the University of Michigan, where he was graduated in the law department in June, 1906. The same year he successfully passed his bar examinations before the supreme court at Lansing, and during the following year was in the employ of the Title Guarantee & Trust Company of New York City. Returning to his home city in 1908, he began his practice in association with Arthur B. Williams and Ira Beck, their offices being over the Old National Bank. After a year Mr. Ford withdrew and has since conducted his own practice. September 1, 1909, Governor Warner appointed him to fill the vacancy in the office of circuit court commissioner,

Hosted by Google

and in the fall of 1910 he was chosen at the regular election for this office.

Mr. Ford is chairman of the city Republican committee and takes an active interest in local politics. He is a member of the Calhoun county and the State bar associations, and belongs to the Episcopal church. His office is over the Central National Bank, and he resides at 35 Adams street. Mr. Ford has always taken an active part in social affairs and the activities of the school and community. He was president of the high school class during his senior year, and was a member of both the baseball and football teams during his four years in high school, being captain of the baseball team in his senior year. Before the abolition of fraternities in high school, he became a charter member of the Kappa Iota Gamma of the Battle Creek high school. At Orchard Lake he was a Kappa Phi, and a Sigma Chi in the university. He was also on the junior hop committee at the university.

A. F. Avery. Among the prominent business men and citizens of Battle Creek in the generation about Civil war times, one of the most honored and successful was A. F. Avery, who was born in 1835, and came to Battle Creek in 1856. Here he learned the business of jeweler with Mr. Claude Avery, and soon afterward went into business for himself. His ability resulted in the accumulation of a handsome property, though he was still a young man at the time of his death.

Mr. Avery died at the age of forty-one, at Bellvue, Eaton county, Michigan, February 27, 1876. He was laid to rest in Battle Creek, where he had so many friends and business associates, with the Masonic rites. He was a thirty-second degree Mason and one of the few at that time who had taken so many degrees in this state. Mr. Avery's jewelry business was conducted in a store where the Central National Bank now stands. Bellvue was his home for a number of years, though his business was always at Battle Creek.

About 1859 Mr. Avery was married to Miss Frances Newton. Her death occurred in 1861. Their only child became the wife of Mr. D. D. Ford, and the mother of Albert N. Ford, the present circuit court commissioner of Calhoun county.

Honorable William E. Bosley. One of the more successful business men of Calhoun county, Hon. William E. Bosley, president of the Peerless Fixtures Company, and a wholesale and retail dealer of hardware, has been a commanding figure in the mercantile and industrial circles of Marshall for upwards of thirty years, his personal attributes being such as would make him a leader in any sphere. He was born, March 30, 1837, in Geneseo, Livingston county, New York, a son of Daniel Bosley, and grandson of Edmund Bosley, who was born in New England, of English ancestry.

Daniel Bosley embarked in business for himself when young, and was prosperously engaged in mercantile pursuits in Livingston county, New York, until his death, at the venerable age of seventy-nine years. To him and his wife, whose maiden name was Lucia Richmond, six children were born, as follows: B. R., of New York; Daniel B., of New York; William E., the subject of this brief sketch; George H., for many years a practicing physician in New York City; Lucia M., wife of Charles Neff, of Livingston county, New York; and Ella, wife of Herbert McClintock, also of Livingston county, New York.

Brought up in his native county, William E. Bosley was educated principally in the Geneseo Academy, where he completed a full course of study. He subsequently became familiar with the details of trade in

Hosted by Google

his father's store, and soon after attaining his majority embarked in business on his own account, for twelve years thereafter being a general merchant at Lakeville, New York. In the spring of 1871, perceiving the rapid development of the middle west, Mr. Bosley migrated to Calhoun county, Michigan, and for five years was engaged in general farming in the town of Marengo. Locating in Marshall in 1876, he opened a store, putting in a good supply of machinery and implements, and here built up a good trade with the near-by farmers. Succeeding well in his venture, Mr. Bosley, in 1882, enlarged his stock, putting in a line of shelf hardware, tinware, cutlery, and general house furnishings, and now carries a complete stock of everything connected with an up-to-date hardware and implement establishment. Upright and square in his dealings, and possessing good business tact and judgment, he has built up a large and profitable wholesale and retail business. He is a stockholder in other enterprises of note, and is president of the Peerless Fixtures Company, one of the leading industries of the city, and is president of the B. B. Buggy Company. He is also one of the directors of the Commercial Savings Bank, a position which he has held since its organization.

Politically a Republican, Mr. Bosley has served as a member of the City Board of Aldermen, and in 1890 was elected mayor of Marshall. In 1904 he represented the First Legislative District of Calhoun county in the state legislature, and while a member of that august body was ever true to the highest interests of his constituents. Fraternally he is a member of St. Albans Lodge, No. 20, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons; and of the Knights of the Maccabees.

Mr. Bosley married, in 1863, Miss Julia A. De LaVergne, who was born in Batavia, Genesee county, New York, a daughter of the late Samuel and Marie De LaVergne. Mrs. Bosley passed to the higher life in 1905, leaving two children, namely: Mary A. and Daniel W.

ALFRED H. TUTTLE, a practical and thriving farmer of Clarence township, has devoted all of his responsible years thus far to the oldest and most honored of occupations, the tillage of soil, and by honest and fruitful endeavor has earned a place among the representative agriculturists of Calhoun county. He was born in Marengo township, Calhoun county, Michigan, February 25, 1865, was reared and received a common school education there, and began in early life to make his way by his own efforts. For a number of years he worked by the month as a farm hand; then in 1900 he bought his present farm of forty acres in Clarence township where he has since given his attention to general farming. He has improved the property to considerable extent since he has been its owner and has a pleasant rural home. In political views he is aligned with the Republican party.

On the paternal side Mr. Tuttle springs from an old New York family, there still being many residents in that state bearing his family name, and on his mother's side he comes directly of Irish ancestry, she having been born in Ireland. Harvey Tuttle, the father, was born near the city of Rochester, New York and married Rosana Graham. They came to Michigan about 1853 and settled on a farm of eighty acres which they bought in Sheridan township, Calhoun county, and on which they resided a number of years. He was a blacksmith by trade. The wife and mother passed away in 1870 and the father later joined her in death. They were the parents of six children, of whom three are now living and of whom Alfred H. was fourth in order of birth.

In 1890 was solemnized the marriage of Alfred H. Tuttle and Miss Anna Cole, daughter of Franklin and Susan (Palmer) Cole. Both

Hosted by Google

Mr. and Mrs. Cole were born in New York, he in 1819 and she is 1822. He came to Michigan in an early day and in 1865 bought a farm in Calhoun county, but later removed to Ottawa county, Michigan, where he died. A Republican in politics, he at one time served as supervisor of Clarence township, and both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. and Mrs. Tuttle have no children.

CHARLES E. WALKER. The agricultural and stock interests of Calhoun county have an enterprising representative in the person of Charles E. Walker, of Clarence township, who is one of the most prosperous farmers of that community and is especially interested in the breeding of fine horses. He owns and handles the imported French coach stallion, Serious, also owns several Percheron mares, and is much interested in the raising of fine draft horses. He is a member of the Michigan State Breeders' Association. He was married in 1872 and shortly afterward bought the farm of 125 acres in Clarence township on which he has since resided. That was not the beginning of his identification with the industry of agriculture, however, for he was reared a farmer boy and had worked by the month for different farmers for several years prior to taking up the occupation independently. He has put thought as well as labor into his efforts and has been well rewarded. Besides this comfortable homestead he also owns another of eighty acres near Brookfield, Eaton county, Michigan, and has given his attention principally to general farming.

Charles E. Walker was born in Ohio, January 12, 1849, and is a son of the venerable John T. Walker, of Eaton county, Michigan, who has reached the advanced age of eighty-six years. The father is a native of Pennsylvania, in which state he was born October 30, 1826, was reared and educated. John T. Walker was wedded in Ohio to Mary Ann Lewis, who was born in New York in 1828 and died on January 12, 1861. She bore him four children: Charles E. of this review; Horace J., now a resident of Clarence township; Amelia, the wife of Austin Price, one of the representative farmers of Clarence township; and Edgar E., who resides in the village of Burlington, Calhoun county. In 1865 Mr. Walker took as his second wife Miss Emily Ferguson, who died in 1900. No children came to this union. From 1850 until 1867 he farmed in Ohio; then in the latter year he removed to Eaton county, Michigan, and located near Brookfield, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres and still resides on it. In earlier years he was a Whig, but for the last half century he has given his political allegiance to the Republican party and has held different of the township offices. In religious faith he is a Methodist and has served on the board of stewards of his church.

Charles E. Walker was entering young manhood when the family removed from Ohio and in that state he had received a practical common school education. Shortly after coming to Michigan he took up work by the month as a farm hand and was thus employed until his marriage in 1872 to Annie M. Armstrong, daughter of John Armstrong, of Eaton county. Soon afterward he settled on his present homestead in Clarence township and for nearly forty years has been numbered among the sterling citizens of that community. He is a Republican in politics. Death entered the family circle on April 12, 1905, and claimed the loving wife and mother. The four children that came to Mr. and Mrs. Walker are: John A., associated with his father in his farming and stock business; Elmer A., who conducts his father's Eaton county farm; Stella, the wife of Claude Towns, a Jackson county farmer; and Nannie, who is now Mrs. Horace Barnum, of Eaton county. Mr. and

Hosted by Google

Mrs. Walker also reared twin niece and nephew of the latter, Lawrence and Florence Betts, whom they took under their care at the age of six years. Lawrence is still with Mr. Walker, but Florence is now Mrs. Charles Graham and lives at Albion, Michigan.

SAMUEL J. TITUS. An industry whose wheels have been turning and whose machinery has been making useful products for more than half a century is always an interesting institution in the life of a community. This interest is enhanced in the case of a mill which through all these years has been making a commodity for the daily vital sustenance of the people. To provide food for the people is an occupation possessing all the fine qualities of service and dignity that can be ascribed to the most aristocratic of pursuits and professions. And this has been the successful work, through two generations, of the mill out on West Madison street in Battle Creek. For sixty years the waters of the stream have been turning its machinery, and its product has furnished the bread for many of the oldest as well as the youngest citizens of this vicinity.

The Star Mills of Titus & Hicks are of course the modern institution —a fine roller-process flouring mill, with a daily capacity of two hundred barrels. Though water power has always been used, the crude water wheels and mechanism of the pioneer times have long since been replaced by the machinery of modern invention. Yet as an institution, the mill has had a continuous history, and for practically sixty years has been operated by the same families.

The first directory of Battle Creek, for the year 1869, states that the Titus & Hicks mill was the first grist mill in the town. It was established about the year 1852. Chester Buckley and Ellery Hicks owned it together for a time, until 1853, when Richard F. Hicks bought the Buckley interests, thus creating the firm of Titus & Hicks under which name the mill has ever since been operated. At the time of the directory above mentioned, the business was known as the People's Mill.

Richard F. Titus was born at New Rochelle, New York, October 20, 1800. His parents were Samuel and Sarah (Pearsall) Titus, the former a substantial miller at New Rochelle during the early years of the nineteenth century. In that mill Richard F. worked while a boy and obtained a fundamental knowledge of the business. While he was a boy the sea exercised a powerful fascination for the youth residing near the Atlantic, and he was one of the many who sailed before the mast. At the age of eighteen he had advanced to be captain of a sailing vessel, and for many years was engaged in the West Indies and South American trade.

In 1843, having left the sea, he came to Michigan and settled at Battle Creek, where he spent the remainder of his life. The following year, 1844, he was married at Cleveland, Ohio, to Miss Frances Walling, who was born in Vermont, and they then returned to Battle Creek and began married life at the homestead where their son Samuel J. still resides. They were both Quakers by training and faith, and at Battle Creek they were among a number of like religion who were early settlers here. For some time Richard F. Titus engaged in the merchandising business with Jonathan Hart, and then was a partner of Henry Cantine in the lard and oil business. This was in the years before the introduction of petroleum, and a considerable industry for some years was the manufacture of what was called "lard oil" for illuminating purposes. While he was engaged in the merchandise business, his store was in the building at the corner of Main and Mon-

Hosted by Google

roe streets that is still standing as one of the landmarks of the old business district.

Then in 1853 he bought the interest in the grist mill which brought him into business association with Ellery Hicks, as already mentioned. At the death of Mr. Hicks soon afterward, he was succeeded by his son William, who has ever since represented the second name in the firm of Titus & Hicks. Richard F. Titus died in June or July, 1868. His wife survived him many years, passing away in March, 1894. Of their two sons, the younger, Richard, died when three years old.

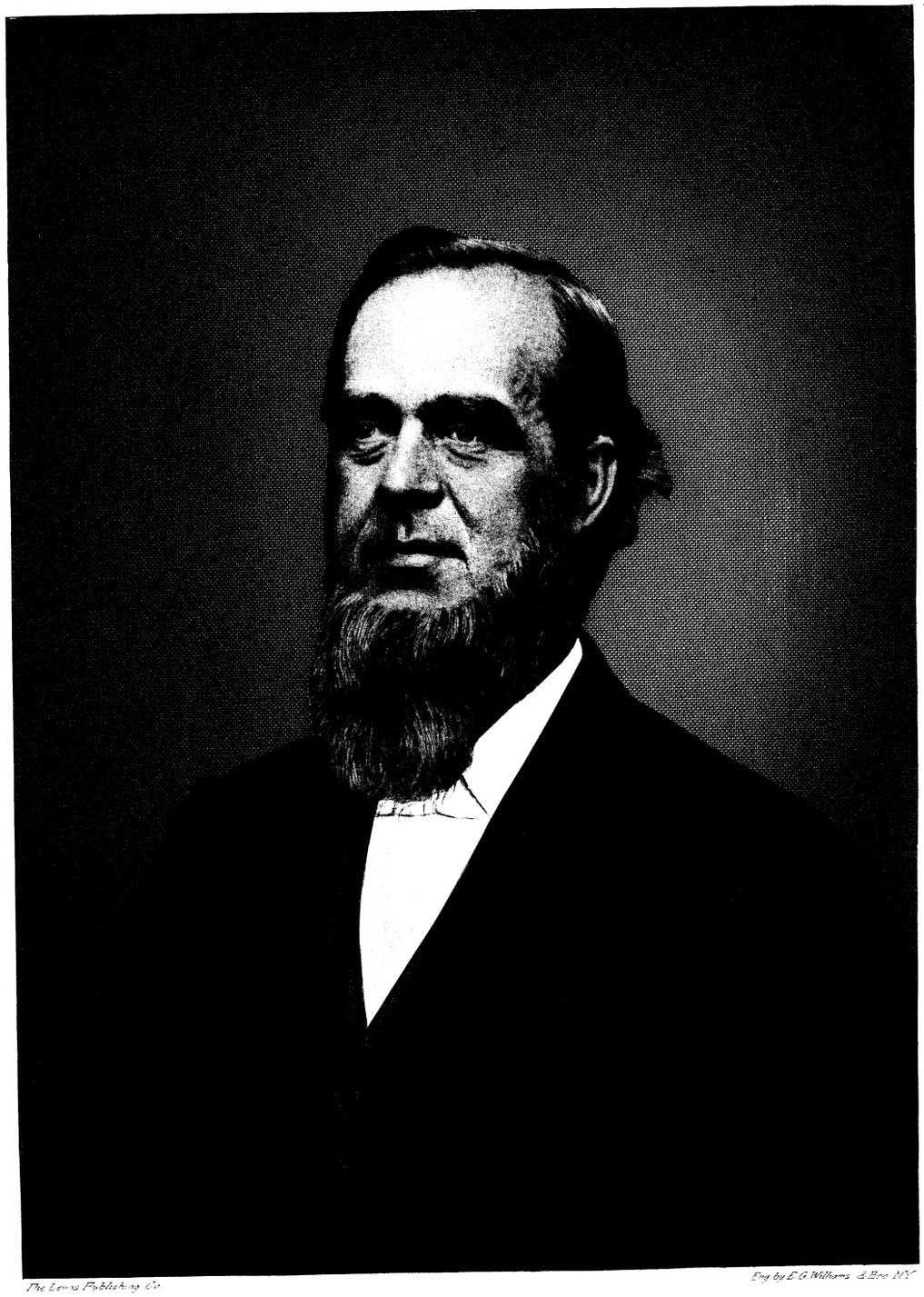
Samuel J. Titus, son of the pioneer miller and his successor in business, was born here in Battle Creek, January 16, 1846, and obtained his education in the public schools and business college of this city. A year before his father's death he entered the mill, and since 1868 has been a member of the Titus & Hicks firm. In 1874 the old mill was torn down to make room for the mill that has been in use to the present day. At the same time the capacity was increased from twenty-five barrels of flour a day to one hundred and twenty-five. However, the old burr-system of grinding was still retained, up to 1885, when the roller process machinery displaced all the old style equipment, and at the same time the capacity was enlarged to two hundred barrels a day.

Mr. Titus has been identified with much of business and civic life of his city for many years. He has been a director of the Old National Bank since 1894, and is treasurer and a director in the Millers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Lansing and a director of the Commercial Insurance Company of the same city. In 1909-10 he served as president of the Athelstan Club, and is also a member of the Elks. He and his family reside at 115 Maple street. November 21, 1871, Mr. Titus was married at East Aurora, New York, to Miss Kate F. Hills. Her father was Henry Hill of East Aurora. She was born at Buffalo, New York, where she also received her early education. Mr. and Mrs. Titus are the parents of three children: Mrs. William Skinner of Battle Creek; Francis Moulton of Rockford, Illinois; and Richard H., of Battle Creek—all of them natives of this city, where they attended the local schools.

CHARLES MERRITT. One of the men to whom Battle Creek, Michigan owes a debt of gratitude, though were he alive he would say that he should be grateful to Battle Creek for the prosperity she gave him, is Charles Merritt, who has been dead for a number of years but whose memory is still bright in the hearts of many. His family were pioneer settlers in Battle Creek, and his connection with the life of the city was a close one. In handling the large pieces of real estate which were under his care, he showed a keen business sense, but in all his dealings in real estate, a business which bears a reputation for offering greater opportunities to the dishonest than any other save, perhaps, horse-trading, he never swerved from the straight path of honor. He would sooner have lost his fortune at one fell swoop than to have cheated another out of a cent. Had Mr. Merritt not been a man of wealth and prominence in the city, his influence would still have been a powerful one, on account of the strength of his character and the power of his mind, which easily separated the false from the true, and read men like an open book.

Charles Merritt was born in Saratoga county, New York, on the 14th of October, 1820. His father was Joseph Merritt, who was also born at the old home in the same house where his son was born. The date of his birth was the 19th of June, 1782 and here on the farm he

Hosted by Google



The Lewis Publishing Co.

Eng by E.G. Williams & Bro. N.Y.

Chas Merritt

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

was reared and married and his nine children were born. He carried on farming on an extensive scale, but he determined to go to the west, in spite of the success which he was meeting. This was partly on account of his sons in order that he might have more land to leave to them, and partly in hopes that his health, which had not been very good would improve in the bracing air of the western prairies. He came to Battle Creek in 1835, his family came in 1836, with the exception of his son, William, who had preceeded the others and acting as agent, for his father had purchased a section of land. This section was located within the present limits of Battle Creek, lying between north and East avenues. The first home of the family was built on the present site of the Merritt homestead on Maple street. At one time a part of the old house was moved to another part of the farm and in 1900 it was torn down to make room for more modern buildings. Joseph Merritt practically lived in retirement after coming to Michigan, though he continued to interest himself more or less in the work of the farm until his death. He took an active interest in all of the questions of the day, especially in those relating to slavery. His home became a meeting place for prominent anti-slavery workers, and frequently such men as William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, Parker Pillsbury and Henry C. Wright were entertained at his home, where Lucy Stone and Sojourner Truth were frequent visitors. While Mr. Merritt never took the platform in defense of the abolition of slavery, he nevertheless exerted a strong though quiet influence in that direction. Through many generations the Merritt family had been members of the Society of Friends, and as is well known the Friends always championed strongly the abolition of slavery. Joseph Merritt with his brothers Abram and Isaac and his brother-in-law, Jonathan Hart, founded and supported a Friends' meeting house on the site now occupied by St. Philip's Roman Catholic church. The Merritt family became a strong moral force in the community and Joseph Merritt exerted a powerful influence for good which was felt long after he had passed away. His death occurred on the 24th of October 1863.

Joseph Merritt was married on the 18th of August, 1813, to Miss Phoebe Hart, a native of the state of Connecticut, where she grew up. Mrs. Merritt was born on December 17, 1791, and died on November 2, 1870. Eight children were born to this couple, namely: Jane, who became the wife of Thomas Chandler, of Adrian, Michigan; William, who for many years was a resident of Battle Creek, and died in 1902; Jonathan H., who died here in 1837; Daniel, who died in 1839; Charles, of this review; Richard B., who was long a resident of this city but is now dead; George, who is now living, San Diego, California; Phoebe H., the deceased wife of Frank Stickney, and Joseph J., who died in California.

Charles Merritt was a youth of fifteen, when the family removed to Michigan. He had received good educational advantages in the east and here he attended a Friends private school, conducted by John Mott. He later went to the home of his uncle George Barrett, at Spring Valley, Ohio, and here he began to learn the woolen manufacturing business. He became thoroughly acquainted with this business, and after a time engaged in the business on his own account, in connection with his brother George, under the firm name of Merritt Brothers. The enterprise was a success but feeling that his duty was in Battle Creek with his father, Charles Merritt returned to the city to take care of his parents who were now well along in years. He assumed the management of the estate, not however giving up his interest in the woolen mills. This plant was after a time moved to Indianapolis, Indiana,

Hosted by Google

and it was not until 1865, that Charles Merritt relinquished his interest in the business. He assisted in the government survey of northern Michigan, and in the Mineral Region. He in 1848 staked the spot on which the now famous Calumet mines are located.

Joseph Merritt had made extensive purchases of land, including a tract at Homer, on which was a mill, and also property at Bellevue, in addition to large investments in reality in this locality. His property here was known as Oak Openings. Charles Merritt took charge of all this, relieving his father of the responsibility and care connected with its management, and developed into a fine real estate man. He became one of the pioneer fruit growers in this part of the state, and went into fruit growing extensively. He made a speciality of the cultivation of strawberries and peaches, having large beds and extensive orchards. He also made a great success with the Lawton blackberries, and he speedily became known as an authority on fruit culture, his opinions being eagerly sought by fruit growers all over the state. He wrote many valuable articles for the leading horticultural journals and one of his articles on "Strawberry Culture," appeared only a short time before his death in the *New York Agriculturist*. Mr. Merritt continued in that line of business until the expansion of the city brought his land into the city market and old orchards and gardens were subdivided and platted, and were placed upon the market as Merritt's First, Second, Third and Fourth additions to Battle Creek. Turning from fruit growing he now gave practically the whole of his time to managing his real estate. Orchard avenue, a beautiful street, now lined with fine residences, passes through the spot where the old orchard was. During the financial panic of 1872, Mr Merritt suffered heavy losses, but he succeeded in winning back a large portion of his fortune.

On the 9th of June, 1857, Charles Merritt was married to Miss Elizabeth Margaret Chandler, daughter of William G. and Sarah (Taylor) Chandler. Mrs. Merritt was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and was educated at Kennett Square, Chester county, and was living in Philadelphia when her marriage occurred. Her father spent his boyhood and youth in Philadelphia, and after attaining his majority married Miss Taylor, who lived in Chester county, Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Merritt became the parents of four children, as follows: Mrs. Minnie C. Fay, who resides with her mother in this city; Charles Wendell, of Denver, Colorado; Maud Elizabeth, wife of Professor Joseph H. Drake, of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, Michigan, and William Guest, of Oak Park, Illinois, which is a suburb of Chicago. All of these children were born here in the old home. While the Merritts were living in their first home in Battle Creek, then on the farm, Colonel Stuart, expecting that Verona would be the town site, built the house now occupied by Mrs. Charles Merritt. After the town was deserted, this part of this house was purchased by Charles Merritt, and with the oxen used for breaking prairie it was removed during the winter season to its present site and there remodeled.

On the 7th of April, 1893, Mr. Merritt died, and since that time Mrs. Merritt has supervised the property interests of the estate, showing marked ability in coping with the business world. She conducts the sale of the lots with splendid success and her husband could not have left his estate in better hands.

Mr. Merritt was always deeply interested in the welfare of the city of Battle Creek, and was active in any movement that tended to better conditions therein. He was a staunch Republican but always refused to accept, office, though no man in his knowledge of the issues of the day was better fitted to cope with public affairs than was Mr. Mer-

Hosted by Google

ritt. His leisure time was given entirely to his family and friends, and how truly he was appreciated by the latter is shown in the following letter written by a prominent man, to Mrs. Merritt shortly after her husband's death. "While the loss is a severe one to you and the children and a sad one for his friends, there are many comforting things connected with his passing away. First, we feel the separation is one for a brief period; then we feel it is well with him. He had a broad, kindly nature, a loving and generous disposition. He was gentle and in addition to this he was thoughtful and he not only thought good things but what it better did them. Your children will be better for having had such a father, you for having had such a husband, others for such friendship. He was so entirely frank and honest that one only needed to meet him to realize he knew a good man."

HOWARD V. ALLEN is one of the representative citizens of his town, and a farmer of considerable ability. He shares with his father an enviable reputation in that respect, and with him is engaged in the operating of one of the fine farms of Calhoun county. Born on August 18, 1880, on the farm on which he now lives, Mr. Allen is the son of Daniel C. and Matilda Caroline (Peek) Allen.

Daniel C. Allen is the son of Norman A. and Anne Eliza (Brown) Allen, both natives of New York state, who came to Michigan in 1848. The Allen family first located in Washtenaw county, but remained there a very short time, moving into Calhoun county, and securing an eighty acre tract which is a part of the farm now owned and occupied by his son and grandson. Here Norman Allen and his wife lived and died, rearing their family in the quiet, simple manner dictated by their similar natures. Mr. Norman was a prominent man in Calhoun county in his time, and was a leader in the Democratic party. His wife was a devout member of the Baptist church, and he was ever a regular attendant with her, although not a member. They reared a family of seven children, of which number Daniel C. was the fourth born. When the parents passed away, Daniel bought out the other heirs to the old home, and there he continued to live, and still makes it his home and the center of his life's activities. He has increased the farm to one hundred and seventy acres, and with his son conducts a general farming enterprise. They have been very successful, and their combined efforts have made the old homestead one of the attractive spots in the community. Mr. Allen has always taken an active part in the political and civic life of the town and county, and like his father, has been prominent in the ranks of the Democratic party for years. He was supervisor of his township for several terms, justice of the peace for years and commissioner of highways on more than one occasion. On the whole, he takes rank as one of the leading citizens of the township and stands high in the esteem and confidence of the community. In 1875 Daniel Allen married Matilda Caroline Peek, who was born in Toronto, Ontario, on October 9, 1856, and came to Michigan in 1866 with her parents, Egbert and Mary (Enos) Peek, natives of Pennsylvania and Canada. The father died in 1869 at the early age of forty-three, while the mother still lives. They became the parents of three sons;—Egbert L., now a teacher in the Central high school of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Howard, of this review; and Norman W., also at home.

Like his brothers, Howard Allen was given a liberal education. After finishing the schools at Clarence, he took a complete course in business training at Ypsilanti, followed by a special course in engineering at the Michigan State Agricultural College in Lansing. His tastes and inclinations led him to continue with the farm rather than to

Hosted by Google

follow any other line of activity, and he has thus remained with his father, assisting him in the operating of the fine farm which represents the birthplace of himself and his father.

He promises to lead a life of activity in county politics, and as a Progressive Republican, was elected supervisor of his township in a strong Democratic community, making the run with a large majority. He is highly regarded among his fellow townspeople, and is known for one of the most eligible bachelors in the township.

CHARLES R. W. SOUTHWICK, M. D. A well-known member of the medical profession of Calhoun county, whose chosen field of practice is the thriving village of Partello, is Dr. Charles R. W. Southwick, a physician whose skill and ability have gained for him the universal confidence and regard of the people of his community. Dr. Southwick was born near the city of Cleveland, Ohio, April 20, 1875, a son of Charles H. and Harriet Anne (Roth) Southwick, the former born in Ohio, in 1853, and the latter in New York, in 1855, of English parentage.

Dr. Southwick traces his ancestors in America back to the year 1630, when Laurence and Cassandra Southwick, Quakers, came to this country. His paternal grandparents were Lucien and Luciena (Stannard) Southwick, and on the maternal side his grandparents were Richard and Grace (Buckingham) Roth. Charles H. Southwick, the Doctor's father, who is now living a retired life at Mount Pleasant, Michigan, was engaged in carpenter work and engineering during his early years, but in 1889 came to Michigan and located on a farm near Mount Pleasant. Here he accumulated 100 acres of valuable land, but disposed of it in 1903, at which time he moved to Maryland, and was there engaged in farming until 1910. Since that year he has lived a quiet life in Mount Pleasant. He is a Democrat in his political views. Mr. and Mrs. Southwick have had four children, as follows: Dr. Charles R. W.; Ellis Eugene, who died September 10, 1911, at Cleveland, Ohio, at the age of thirty-five years; Grace Alice, aged twenty-seven years, who married William Sprague, of Mount Pleasant; and George Washington, of Cleveland, Ohio, who is engaged in carpenter work.

Charles R. W. Southwick received his early education in the country schools of Ohio and Michigan, supplementing this with attendance at the Mount Pleasant high school, where he was graduated in the class of 1901. At that time he entered the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, remaining two years, in 1905 being graduated from the Detroit College of Medicine with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He immediately entered upon the active practice of his profession at Weidman, in Isabella county, Michigan, but four and one-half years later came to the village of Partello, which has since been his field of practice. The Doctor has built up a large and lucrative professional business, and his remarkable success in a number of complicated cases has given him a widespread reputation, both among his patients and his professional confreres. He is an active and valued member of the Calhoun County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and also holds membership in the Blue Lodge of Masons at Olivet, and the Odd Fellows at Weidman. His political convictions are those of the Republican party, but he has not been an office seeker, his professional duties having demanded his attention and satisfied his ambitions.

On August 17, 1904, Dr. Southwick was united in marriage with Miss Edith M. Whipple, daughter of Mrs. Martha M. Whipple, and to this union there have been born three children, as follows: Lyla

Hosted by Google

Genevieve, who is deceased; and Helen Irene and Wayne Alden, who are at home.

GEORGE RUNDLE. Although he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits all his life, George Rundle is well known to the citizens of Lee township, where he is operating a well-cultivated tract of forty-three acres of valuable land. The successful manner in which he has conducted his own affairs has made him the choice for one of the supervisors of his township, where the citizens have faith in his ability to conduct public interests as well. Mr. Rundle is a native-born citizen of Lee township, Calhoun county, Michigan, his birth having occurred January 15, 1878, the oldest of the seven sons comprising the family of Ellet and Ellen (Diedrich) Rundle.

Peter Rundle, the grandfather of George Rundle, was the progenitor of this family in America, coming to this country from England at an early day and settling in Calhoun county, Michigan, on a farm in Newton township. The maternal grandfather of Mr. Rundle was a native of the Fatherland and his wife of France, she bearing the maiden name of Mary Campbell, and on coming to the United States they settled on a farm in Marengo township, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Ellet Rundle was born in Newton township and was there reared and educated, but in his later years removed to Lee township, where he continued to follow farming during the remainder of his life. He was a Democrat in his political views, but not a politician, and never sought public preferment. He interested himself in fraternal matters as a member of the Odd Fellows.

Like other farmers' sons of his vicinity, George Rundle divided his boyhood between the district schools, which he attended during the winter months, and the home farm, where he spent his summers, assisting his father and being taught the principles of successful tilling of the soil. Subsequently, however, he decided upon a business career, and engaged in the implement business in Marshall, conducting an establishment at that place until 1912, when he again returned to farming, and now has a property of forty-three acres. This he is developing into one of the best properties of its size in this part of the country, erecting substantial buildings, grading, leveling and tiling, and making numerous improvements which have greatly increased the farm's value. Progressive and enterprising in all things, Mr. Rundle is in favor of the use of modern machinery and methods, and has found that they greatly facilitate his own work.

In 1900 Mr. Rundle was united in marriage with Miss Orpha Cook, daughter of Lymas Cook, formerly of Ingham county, Michigan, and now a resident of Olivet, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Rundle have had a family of three children, all of whom are living at home: Claude, Clell and Ruth. Mr. Rundle is a Democrat in his political views, and has served on the school board for a number of years, in addition to which he acted as township treasurer for two years. In 1912 he was elected a member of the board of township supervisors, a capacity in which he is serving at the present time. Fraternally, he is a popular member of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America.

MYRON BOLLES. The only survivor of his family, that is his father's immediate household, and therefore having no one but himself to depend on, and having risen to his present estate of comfort in a worldly way and consequence among the people in reference to all the interests and activities of his township and county through great trials and over great obstacles, Myron Bolles of Marengo township is entitled to high

Hosted by Google

credit for his success and strong admiration as a type of the self-reliant and resourceful American citizen, who laughs at fate and dares her do her worst, then wins in the unequal contest by reason of his force of character and adaptability to every requirement that may be laid upon him.

Mr. Bolles was born in the township in which he now lives on September 26, 1848, and is a son of Benjamin T. and Corlinda (Lattin) Bolles, the former born in the state of New York about 1800 and the latter in Vermont in 1824. She died in 1851 and the father in 1855. They were married in Michigan and became the parents of three children, of whom Myron, the last born, is the only one living. The other two were Stephen, who died many years ago; and Lucy, who became the wife of N. Jewell and whose death occurred in 1871.

The father, Benjamin T. Bolles, came to Michigan when a young man and was followed by his father and the rest of the family soon afterward. He was a son of Julius Bolles, and in company with his father took up a large tract of government land. They cleared this land and made it their home for a number of years, the son then locating at Marengo. There and at Marshall he worked at his trade as a tanner in connection with extensive farming operations. The grandfather of Myron Bolles on his mother's side was Daniel Lattin, a man of prominence and influence in the locality of his residence, or the several places in which he lived from time to time, for he was a man of great force of character and considerable intelligence.

Myron Bolles obtained his education in district schools, and obtained it under difficulties of pressing weight. His parents died when he was yet but a child, the mother when he was but three years old and the father four years later. By their death the home was entirely broken up and the orphan boy was obliged to make his home wherever he could find one, first with one family and then with another, working during the summers and attending school when he could be spared during the winter months.

When he had nearly attained his majority he began farming on his own account, and after a few years of patient industry in the employ of others and frugal living for himself, he was able to purchase forty acres of land in which his sister owned a one-half interest. To this he afterward added twenty acres and enlarged his operations as his prosperity and facilities increased. In time he sold this farm and bought fifty acres of a better tract in Sheridan township, which he farmed for two years and then sold it. His next purchase was a tract of forty acres in Eaton county on which he lived three years, remaining until 1881, when he located on a farm belonging to his father-in-law, the one which he now owns and cultivates.

This farm he worked on shares five years, then bought it. It comprises 160 acres, the greater part of which is under cultivation. On this farm, which has been the field of his operations ever since, and a source of great pride and solicitude to him, he has a fine brick dwelling and good barns and other necessary buildings. The barns have concrete floors in the stalls and other modern features which make them particularly desirable and give him many conveniences for an extensive business in raising live stock, which he carries on with vigor and profit; but he does not raise thoroughbred stock, as he only caters to the markets which supply meat for food. His farming operations are general in their character and he makes them pay well by the enterprise and intelligence with which he conducts them. He is well qualified for specialties, but does not care for them, preferring to give his attention to his farm as a whole, in the ordinary way, without a variety of requirements.

Hosted by Google

Mr. Bolles was married on December 7, 1869, to Miss Anna McGhee, a daughter of James McGhee, a prominent farmer of Clarence township, this county. She died in 1871, and on March 7, 1877, he contracted a second marriage. In this he was united with Miss Ella M. Carrier, a daughter of Edwin B. Carrier, who lived on the farm Mr. Bolles owns but is now living at Oconto Falls, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. Bolles are the parents of six children: Ethel, the widow of John Ovenshire; Cecil M., who married Louis L. Avery of Albion; Cornelia Florence, who is the wife of Harold Weeks of Albion; Olive Lucile, the wife of Aro Hotchkiss, professor of the Commercial College at Elgin, Illinois; Burt Glenn, a graduate of the polytechnical school in Peoria, Illinois, but now teaching manual training at Butte, Mont; and June Ray, who is also living with her parents, and is a student in the Albion high school.

In his political faith and allegiance Mr. Bolles is a Republican Prohibitionist, but he is not an active partisan in any way. He is now and has been for some years a member of the school board, but he was elected for this office and performs its duties without regard to political consideration. Mr. Bolles and family are regular attendants of the Methodist Protestant church, where they have been active workers for many years. The people of Calhoun county regard him as one of their most useful and representative citizens and esteem him accordingly.

MATTHEW C. THOMAS. Prominent among the well-known residents of the village of Partello, may be mentioned Matthew C. Thomas, who for about sixteen years has been living retired from active business life. He has built up for himself a lasting reputation as a man possessing most excellent personal traits of character, upright and honorable in his business transactions, and imbued with that generous public spirit that made him always ready to assist in whatever was calculated to promote the welfare of his community. During a long and honorable career he has been elected to various positions of trust and importance, in all of which he has demonstrated himself to be a public-spirited citizen who holds official office as a sacred trust. Matthew C. Thomas was born May 27, 1842, in Marengo township, Calhoun county, Michigan, and is a son of Clark and Abigail (Bunn) Thomas.

Clark Thomas was born in the state of New York, about the year 1808, and in 1836 came west, locating in Marengo township, where he was engaged in farming up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1843. He owned a property of forty acres in Marengo township, and another farm in Lee township, and although still a young man at the time of his death was known as one of Calhoun's rising business men. In politics he was a Democrat, but never cared for public office. His wife, also a native of the Empire state, was born about 1826, and died in 1887, having been the mother of two children: Azuba, who married a Mr. Woodmancy and resided in Cherokee, Oklahoma; and Matthew C.

Matthew C. Thomas was only about one year old at the time of his father's death, but managed to secure a good education in the district schools of Marengo township. He was engaged in work on the home farm until the outbreak of the Civil war, and in 1861 enlisted in Company A, First Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until May 3, 1862. In June of the same year, he veteranized by becoming a member of Company H, Seventeenth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and remained with that organization until the close of the war. With the army of the east he saw considerable hard fighting, and among his numerous battles were those of South Mountain and Antietam. He also became familiar with southern prisons, when

Hosted by Google

he was captured and confined at Winchester, Virginia, but eventually paroled. On his return to Calhoun county, Mr. Thomas settled in Lee township, where he was married in 1865 to Armenia A. Murray, daughter of David W. Murray, of Lee township. Of the three children born to this union, only one survives, Arthur D., who is now living in Battle Creek, where he is in the employ of Kellogg's Toasted Corn Flakes Company. He married Florence Luff, and has three children.

Mr. Thomas, on his return to Calhoun county, engaged in farming in Lee township, where he owned a farm of something over eighty-seven acres, but two years later engaged in the mercantile business at Partello, where he remained two years. He again went in the mercantile business in 1878, but during the past sixteen years has not engaged in activities of a business nature. In political matters a Democrat, under President Cleveland he served as postmaster of Partello, and also served as deputy sheriff of Calhoun county for two years, and as constable for twenty-six years. Fraternally he holds membership in Olivet Lodge, F. & A. M., and the local lodge of the Knights of the Maccabees, and is also a valued comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic. He and his wife have numerous friends in Partello, and their comfortable modern home is often the meeting place for those with whom they have been intimate during the long years of their residence here.

Mr. Thomas' half-brother, Lovinas A. Belding, reenlisted in '61 in the Civil war and served throughout the war; he returned to Calhoun county and remained till 1867 when he joined the regular army but nothing has been heard from him since 1888 while at Atlanta, Georgia.

CYRENIUS C. SMITH, M. D. Worthy of especial mention in a work of this character is Cyrenius C. Smith, M. D., who has been busily and successfully engaged in the practice of medicine at Bedford, Calhoun county, for upwards of a quarter of a century, during which time he has won an honored position in the community, not only as a skillful physician, but as an esteemed and highly respected citizen. A native of Illinois, he was born, April 22, 1860, in McHenry county.

His father, George Smith, was born and reared in New York state, where his parents were life-long residents. In 1856 he came with his young wife to Illinois, settling on a farm in McHenry county. Soon after the breaking out of the Civil war he enlisted in an Illinois regiment, and died while in the army. He married, in New York, Mary Griswold, a daughter of Johial Griswold, who spent his entire life in New York state. Shortly after the death of her husband, she moved with her family to Michigan, and was here a resident until her death, in 1910, at the venerable age of four score and four years.

A small child when brought by his mother to Michigan, Cyrenius C. Smith acquired his preliminary education in the public schools, afterwards continuing his studies for a year in the medical department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, for a year. Going then to Chicago, he was graduated from the Hahnemann Medical College with the class of 1884. Immediately locating at Bedford, Calhoun county, Dr. Smith has here built up a large and highly remunerative patronage, his practice extending many miles into the country in either direction. Left fatherless in early childhood, he has in truth been the architect of his own fortunes, being mainly self-educated and self-made. He is exceedingly prosperous, both as a physician and as a business man, owning a beautiful home, and other property of value, including the building in Bedford in which he was for a short time engaged in business as a general merchant. He devotes himself to the demands of

Hosted by Google

his profession, and is an interested member of the American Medical Society.

Politically the Doctor is a loyal Republican, and although not an office seeker has served on the Bedford Board of Education, of which he is now a member. Fraternally Dr. Smith is a member of Bedford Lodge, No. 207, Free and Accepted Order of Masons; of Battle Creek Chapter, No. 16, Royal Arch Masons, and of Battle Creek Commandery, No. 33, Knights Templar.

Dr. Smith married, in 1897, Lydia Haynes, a daughter of James Haynes, of Canada. She was fitted for a professional career, and was caring for a patient as a trained nurse when the Doctor met her. Two children have been born to the union of Dr. and Mrs. Smith, namely: Geraldine and Lelahl, both now in school. The Doctor and his wife are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JAMES COURT. The salient points in a sermon recently preached by Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, of Brooklyn, New York, referred to heredity and environment as being but half truths, the part which they play in determining a man's career being as nothing compared with the influence that he can himself exert if he so prepares himself that he is ready when opportunity knocks at his door. The life record of the late James Court, head of the firm of James Court & Son, of Marshall, shows that he was ever alert to take advantage of fortune's offers, at the same time furnishing a forcible example to the rising generation of the material success to be obtained by persevering industry, and a wise system of economy. A native of England, he was born, November 26, 1839, in Berkshire, being the only son of James and Typhosia (Crutchfield) Court. His father, a farmer, was accidentally killed in 1843, and his mother afterward married again.

Brought up in his English home, James Court, who was left fatherless when but four years of age, had but limited educational advantages as a boy, his knowledge having been largely acquired by private study and extensive reading. In 1855, desirous of enlarging his scope of action, and becoming better acquainted with other parts of the great world than he could by the gathered reports of other people, he immigrated to the United States, landing in New Orleans. Staying but a short time in that southern city, Mr. Court came north on a Mississippi river steamboat to Stillwater, Minnesota, and during the following year worked in a hotel at Marine Mills. In the fall of 1856 he made his first appearance in Marshall, Michigan, but his stay was then of short duration. Proceeding to Kalamazoo county, Mr. Court found remunerative employment in the lumber camps, chopping wood and logging. He took a contract for clearing three hundred and twenty acres of woodland for the Michigan Central Railroad Company, a work in which he had to hire twenty-five choppers, and employ thirteen teams. Investing in real estate, Mr. Court bought a tract of land in Kalamazoo county, but soon after traded it for property in Marshall.

In 1877 Mr. Court took up his residence in Marshall, and started in business for himself as a dealer in poultry, beginning operations on a modest scale. Meeting with encouraging success from the start, he enlarged his operations each year, dealing not only in poultry, but buying and shipping eggs and butter, not only in the state but in more distant markets. His business subsequently assumed such large proportions that he erected, in Marshall, an immense plant for the handling of dressed poultry, and butter and eggs, and a little later admitted his son, Frank W. Court to partnership, the firm name becoming James Court & Son.

Hosted by Google

In April, 1897, in order to facilitate his business, Mr. Court bought a tract of land in Allegan, this state, and having erected a large storage and packing house there built up a fine trade, which the firm has since continued, the plant being located on the line of the Michigan Central Railroad. Mr. Court also built a plant at Bellvue, Eaton county, and that and the two others were controlled exclusively by Mr. Court and his son, who also had a half interest in the plant at Homer, being at the head of the firm of Court & Hardy. In his business operations Mr. Court, with his partners, kept a number of men busy all of the time, the work of gathering the poultry, eggs and butter for the central plants requiring many hands and many teams.

In 1891 Mr. Court, who was ever on the alert to secure the best methods and equipments for carrying on his business interests, erected a large poultry house, with a double refrigerator, the house at that time having been the largest and best of the kind in Michigan. He gained entrance to the leading markets of the east, and continued in active trade until his death, which occurred at his home in Marshall, March 20, 1902, his death being a cause of general regret in business, fraternal and social circles, he having been deservedly popular with all classes of people.

In his political affiliations Mr. Court supported the principles of the Republican party, and though not an aspirant for public office served as a member of the City Council two terms, during which time the electric light plant and water works were taken over by the city. Fraternally he belonged to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Mr. Court and his wife were both members of the Congregational church, but there having been no religious organization of that denomination in Marshall they were regular attendants of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Court married, October 18, 1862, Salina Williams, who was born in Oxford, England, came to the United States when a young girl, and died in Marshall, Michigan, March 4, 1902. Of the six children born of their union, two died in infancy, James, Jr., died in early manhood, and three are now living, namely: Frank W., of whom a brief sketch appears on another page of this volume; Kate; and Reuben, the latter has charge of the Litchfield plant.

FRANK W. COURT. One of the enterprising and progressive business men of the city of Marshall, and a worthy representative of the mercantile interests of Calhoun county, Frank W. Court is widely known as a wholesale and retail dealer in poultry, eggs and butter, his immense trade in this line of merchandise going to the leading markets of the east, his name being familiarly known to the leading commission merchants of New York and Boston. The business which he is so successfully conducting was started upwards of thirty years ago by his father, the late James Court, and has been continued without interruption ever since, the firm name for the past few years having been James Court & Son.

Frank W. Court was born in Marshall, July 21, 1863, being the eldest son of James and Salina (Williams) Court, natives of England, the father's birth having occurred in Berkshire, and the mother's in Oxford. Both came to this country in early life, and were here married in 1862. Further parental and ancestral history may be found elsewhere in this biographical work in connection with the sketch of James Court.

Acquiring a practical education in the common and high schools of Marshall, Frank W. Court subsequently received an excellent training in business matters under the wise guidance of his father, who was a man of superior business ability and judgment, acquiring while yet a

Hosted by Google

young man an experience and a knowledge of men, that has enabled him to direct his energies and efforts not only to his own advantage, but to the benefit of his employees. On being admitted to partnership with his father, he became junior member of the firm of James Court & Son, which has acquired a far more than local reputation for its enterprise and stability, ranking with the leading mercantile concerns of the state. Since the death of his father, in March, 1902, Mr. Court has continued the business so advantageously started, pushing it and extending it until it has assumed great magnitude. He has made valuable improvements to the Marshall plant of the company, it being now one hundred and twenty feet by one hundred and forty feet, two stories in height, with two large warehouses and a cold storage room. The Company also has plants in Litchfield, Bellevue, Allegan, and Homer, these being under the management of local superintendents, but operated by the home plant. Mr. Court is also interested in everything pertaining to the welfare of his home city, and is a generous contributor to all enterprises conducive to the public good. One of his sons, George Court, is principal of the Battle Creek high school.

Mr. Court married, in 1888, Miss Mary A. Lowe, of Marshall, a daughter of John Lowe, and to them four children have been born, namely: Frances May, George W., Richard E., and Hazel J.

Prominent in Masonic circles, Mr. Court is a member of Saint Albans Lodge, No. 20, Free and Accepted Order of Masons; of Lafayette Chapter, No. 4, Royal Arch Masons; and of Marshall Commandery, No. 17, Knights Templar. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias.

J. E. Crosby. One of our greatest modern statesmen has said: "Our civilization rests at bottom on the wholesomeness, the attractiveness and the completeness, as well as the prosperity of life in the country. The men and women on the farms stand for what is fundamentally best and most needed in our American life." This fact is rapidly being recognized and scientific farming is assuming its rightful position among the leading commercial and professional occupations. One of Calhoun county's most highly respected and successful agriculturists is J. E. Crosby, whose splendid farm of two hundred and seventy-eight acres is located in Emmett township, in which section, in adjoining township, his honored father was one of the stalwart pioneers who laid the paths for coming civilization straight and clean. He is one of his township's leading Republicans and has held several important public offices with much credit, being now township supervisor.

Mr. Crosby was born on a farm in Battle Creek township February 28, 1833, the son of Peter Crosby, a native of Bath, Steuben county, New York. Peter Crosby, like so many of his neighbors, came to the northwest at an early date in quest of the opportunity presented by the newly opening country. His arrival within the boundaries of Michigan was as early as the year 1840, and he took up government land west of Battle Creek. He was married July 4, 1850, Mary Jane Webster, a native of Ohio, becoming his wife and helpmeet. Of the five children born to these worthy people, the subject was the second in order of birth. He and his sister are the only survivors. In the later years of his life, Peter Crosby moved into Battle Creek, where the respect of his fellow men attended him as in his previous surroundings. He was a Republican in politics. He passed to the Great Beyond on January 15, 1901, but his widow survives and makes her home in Battle Creek.

The early life of the subject was passed in Battle Creek and in the public schools of that city he received his general education. Following that he took a commercial course in Battle Creek, but has for

Hosted by Google

the most part devoted his energies to agriculture rather than to business. Afer his marriage in 1873, he engaged in farming in Berry county and after a period there, he removed to LeRoy, Osceola county, where for a number of years he engaged successfully in the shipping of lumber. Still retaining his connection with the lumber company he removed in its interests to Manistee. However, the pleasures of farm life did not diminish in attractiveness for him and in December, 1891, he secured his present splendid farm, which under his thrifty management has developed into one of the county's model farms.

Mr. Crosby is of the proper caliber for public responsibility and he has made an enviable public record. At the present time he holds the office of township supervisor and when a resident of Osceola county, he held the office of treasurer of his township. He is school director and has ever demonstrated his sincere conviction that the best education possible to secure for the young people is none too good. In truth, there is nothing of public import in his community in which he is not helpfully interested, and all measures which in his judgment promise benefit to any considerable number of his fellow citizens have his cordial advocacy and generous support. He and his wife and daughter are valued members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is one of the standard bearers of the Grand Old Party.

Mr. Crosby was married in 1873 to Ida M. Lang, daughter of Daniel Lang, Greenville, Michigan, long since deceased. Their only child is a daughter, Hazel Belle, now a student in the Battle Creek high school and a very accomplished and attractive young woman. Their home is one of Emmett township's most popular gathering places.

JOHN H. MANBY. Noteworthy among the many enterprising men who are prosperously engaged in agricultural pursuits in the rich and fertile country in and around Calhoun county is John H. Manby, who uses excellent methods and good judgment in the prosecution of his calling, and is meeting with satisfactory success. He was born in New York state, December 12, 1857, and is of English ancestry on both sides of the house, his paternal grandfather, Robert Manby, and his maternal grandfather, William Keely, having been life-long residents of England.

His father, Job Manby, was born and educated in England. Desirous as a young man to try the hazard of new fortunes, he immigrated to America, locating in the Empire state about 1850. In 1864, lured still farther westward, he came with his little family to Michigan, and having purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Bedford township, Calhoun county, he was there engaged in general farming a number of years. He subsequently removed to Battle Creek, and there spent his last days, passing away in 1893. He was a Democrat in politics, and both he and his wife were faithful members of the Baptist church. His wife, whose maiden name was Lucy Keeley, was born and bred in England, where her parents spent their entire lives.

A lad of seven years when the family came to Michigan, John H. Manby acquired his early education principally in the district schools, attending school one term, only, in Battle Creek. Becoming familiar as a boy with the various branches of agriculture he assisted his father in the care of the home farm for several seasons, after which he worked as a farm hand for several years, receiving wages by the month. In 1898 Mr. Manby bought the parental homestead in Bedford township, and as a general farmer is meeting with good results. In addition to this he is quite successful as a stock raiser and dealer, finding it a profitable and pleasant industry.

A stanch supporter of the principles promulgated by the Demo-

Hosted by Google

cratic party, Mr. Manby takes a genuine interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of his community, never shirking his responsibilities as a man and a citizen. In 1904 he was his party's candidate for the office of township supervisor, and having been elected served ably and acceptably for four years. In 1911 he was again his party's nominee for the same position, and notwithstanding that the township is a Republican stronghold he was elected by a handsome majority, the votes cast in his favor showing his popularity in the town. Mr. Manby married, in 1889, Miss Susie Errington of Penfield township, who died the following year.

In 1892 Mr. Manby married Nellie Foster, a daughter of Richard H. and Alitia (Piper) Foster. Her father, a native of Canada, migrated to Michigan in 1864, settling at Battle Creek, where he was engaged in blacksmithing until his death, in 1873, but a few years after his marriage with Miss Piper, who was born and reared in New York state. Mr. and Mrs. Manby are the parents of two children, namely: Charles J., who was graduated from the Battle Creek high school, assists his father on the home farm; and Harold, now attending the Battle Creek Business College. Mr. Manby and his wife are members of the Congregational church.

WILLIAM C. MILLS. Prominently and profitably engaged in farming, and one of the most enterprising and progressive men in the business in Marengo township, this county; well educated and still very studious, and having in addition to his scholastic attainments a large fund of practical general information, and thereby a leader of thought in his locality; earnestly interested in the public affairs of his township and county, moral, mental, material, political and social, and an active factor in directing them, William C. Mills has exemplified in the fifty-five years of his life many of the best and most admirable and useful traits of character and attributes of citizenship, and is esteemed in accordance with his genuine worth and sterling American manhood.

Mr. Mills was born in Flowerfield township, St. Joseph county, Michigan, on October 1, 1857. His parents, Rev. Levi and Esther (Blair) Mills, were natives of Washington county, Maryland, where the former was born in 1811 and the latter in 1812. The mother died in 1884 and the father in 1888. They were the parents of eleven children, six of whom grew to maturity. Five of these are living: Anne C., who is the wife of W. Lewis and resides in Battle Creek; Esther, who married Dealton Durham and has her home in Barry county; Levi, who is a resident of South Dakota; Jennie, who became the wife of L. T. Clark and now lives at Marengo, and William C., who was the last born of the eleven. James B., who also grew to manhood, died at Hastings, Barry county, and was probate judge of that county at the time of his death.

The parents moved from Maryland to Ohio at an early period in the history of that state, and a few years later came to Michigan. They were located in Monroe county for a time, then, after a residence of some years in St. Joseph county, came to Calhoun county about 1858. They took up their residence in Penfield township near Battle Creek. The father was a Methodist Protestant clergyman, and the rule of itineracy of that church, which still prevails, especially in the rural districts, made him considerable of a wanderer, and a circuit rider in many places. Both parents died at Rice Creek in Lee township, where the father owned a small farm, and both were well alvanced in years at the time of their demise.

Hosted by Google

William C. Mills obtained his early education in the district schools. He also passed two years in a high school in Three Rivers, St. Joseph county. On the foundation thus laid he has built a superstructure of wide general intelligence through extensive reading and studious observation, and is considered one of the best informed men in his township. He moved to the farm he now occupies in 1900. It is a large one and he has about 240 acres of it under cultivation, doing general farming with enterprise and judgment, and also raising live stock on a considerable scale.

Mr. Mills was married on February 22, 1887, to Miss Carrie Wilder, a daughter of Nathan F. Wilder, who is now living in Marengo township. Of their union three children have been born. The oldest, Harry, is living in Detroit and is in the employ of the Oldsmobile Works as a member of its office force, and Ralph and Edith are still members of the parental family circle. The father is a Republican in politics and attends the Methodist Protestant church for religious services. He has served on the school board a number of years and is now township clerk, an office to which he was elected in 1912. Throughout the county he is well known and in all parts of it is held in the highest esteem on account of his genuine worth as a man and his progressiveness, high tone and usefulness as a citizen. In Marengo township he is easily among the leading men from every point of view.

RAY COURTRIGHT. Since he was twenty-one years old, Ray Courtright has been independently engaged in farming; at first, operating another man's land on shares, and since 1904 running his own farm, which his father deeded to him at that time. Mr. Courtright was born on the farm he now owns and occupies in November 18, 1873, and is the son of Leonard Courtright and his wife, Mary Anne (Lamb) Courtright. The father was born in the township of Butler, Wayne county, New York, on August 1, 1827, while the mother was a native of Cayuga county, New York, born there in 1831. In 1844 Leonard Courtright came to Michigan with his parents, who located in Clarence township, near the farm on which the subject now lives. Here he married his wife, who came to Michigan with her parents as a young girl, they also settling in Clarence township. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Courtright, as follows: May married Louis North, and is now deceased; H. June is a resident of Dallas, Texas; Eva is dead; Cass Juan is engaged in the monument business in Springport; J. L. is a resident of Albion; Ray, of this review. Leonard Courtright bought this farm from the government. He cleared the land, and built upon it a log house, which he furnished complete with furniture made from the logs he cut on the place. He started life with nothing but his strength, his courage and determination, and the splendid character that came by endowment to him from his sturdy ancestors. By the application of those qualities, he has risen from comparative penury to the position of a well-to-do man. His first farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres he added to from time to time until it represented an acreage of three hundred or more acres at one time, which he operated up to its limit. In later years he built upon this place one of the finest brick houses in the township, with fine large barns and stables suited to his needs. He was ever a hard-working man, and though small of stature, never weighing more than one hundred and forty pounds, he was capable of performing more actual labor, with greater powers of endurance than many a man by far his physical superior in weight and size. He was a Democrat, but not more than ordinarily active in the political

Hosted by Google

affairs of the community. He died on January 19, 1909, while his wife preceded him on August 14, 1894.

The boyhood of Ray Courtright was one of unusual freedom for a farm lad, and it was not until he was twenty-one that he settled down to actual responsibility. In that year he began to operate his present farm on shares, and after a year thus engaged he took another farm of 120 acres in the northern part of the township, which he continued to work for two seasons. In 1900 he returned home and his father deeded him his present farm, consisting of seventy-five acres in the finest part of the township. He does a general farming business and raises some stock, as well.

On December 25, 1894, Mr. Courtright married Rena Augusta Starks, the daughter of D. C. and Emma (Williams) Starks. Her family is one of the oldest in the state, her grandparents having come to Michigan in the early territorial days. The family was founded in Michigan by Samuel C. Stark, who was born in Whitehill, Washington county, New York, on January 16, 1818, dying in Michigan in 1892. He settled in Michigan in 1844, locating in Branch county, and a year later moving to Calhoun county. He first bought property in Albion, which he later traded for eighty acres of land in Clarence township, that place now being owned by A. J. Cortright. The last years of his life were spent on a small farm in the southern part of the township. His son, D. C. Starks, attended the district schools of Clarence township, and in 1872 was employed as a fireman on the Michigan Central Railroad. Later he became interested in the saw mill business in Brookfield, in which he continued for fourteen years. His parents then were in their old age and needed his care, and he accordingly went home and looked after them until their death. During the last 18 years he has lived in Springfield, engaged principally in the elevator business. He was married in 1874 to Emma Jane Williams, the daughter of Vine and Phylinda Williams, and they became the parents of three children:—George Riley, of Springport; Rena Augusta, who married Ray Courtright, and Eva Maude, the wife of J. E. Hoag, a bookbinder of Springport. Mr. and Mrs. Courtright have one child,—Eva May, in school at present.

ANDY J. CORTRIGHT is another representative of the fine old family of that name, which has been identified with the agricultural history of Calhoun county for the past seventy years, and as such is worthy of a place in the historical and biographical work devoted to that county. He was born in Clarence township on January 20, 1862, and is the son of Emerson and Miranda (Barber) Cortright, both natives of New York, the father being born there on September 1, 1823, and the mother on April 15, 1833. Emerson Cortright came to Michigan with his parents, Simeon and Margaret (Haines) Cortright, in 1844, and they bought a farm in Clarence township on which they passed the remainder of their lives.

In 1848 Emerson Cortright bought a farm in Clarence township consisting of one hundred and twenty-five acres, to which in later years he added an eighty-acre tract, so that when he died he was the owner of two hundred and five acres of land. His death occurred in 1909, his wife having passed away in the previous year. Of their eight children, Andy J. was the fifth born, and but four of that number are now living. Fred and William are residents of Clarence township, as well as the subject.

Andy J. Cortright secured a limited education in the district schools of his day, and worked for his father on the home farm until he was

Hosted by Google

twenty-one. In 1883 he married Elizabeth Taylor, a daughter of John C. Taylor of New York, who came to Michigan in 1872 and passed the remainder of his days in the farming industry, in which he was particularly successful. He died in 1903.

Mr. and Mrs. Cortright have three children;—Maude M. married Gaylord Wagner and lives in Battle Creek; Emerson lives with his parents, as does also Ross, the youngest son.

The present farm home of the Cortrights was purchased in 1899,—an eighty acre tract which in point of improvements and up-to-date methods of operation, is not to be excelled in the township. Mr. Cortright is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and a Democrat in politics, but not an active participant in such matters, although he has held several responsible positions in township and school offices, also in the Farmers' Mutual Telephone Association.

ANDREW WOODEN was reared in Emmett township under pioneer influence. He has always been engaged in agriculture, doing much hard work in improving the homestead which he now owns and occupies. The place is situated in section fifteen and was purchased by his father, Daniel Wooden, from the patentee, in the early days of the county.

Born in Ontario county, New York, April 10, 1835, Andrew Wooden is the son of Daniel and Frances (Palmer) Wooden. The father was born in New York state in about 1804, and was the son of John Wooden, a native of the state of New York. John Wooden owned four hundred acres of land near Geneva, New York, and was one of the most prosperous farmers in that region. In 1836 Daniel, his son, came to Michigan, there buying the land which is now owned by his son, the subject of this review. The rough pioneer life and its many attendant hardships broke down the health of the young home-seeker, and after four years he returned to New York, where he died at the early age of thirty-eight years. Daniel Wooden was a man of unusual character and mentality, and was an admirable citizen and an adherent of Democrtic principles. His wife was born in New York state in 1809. They were the parents of four children, but one of which number now survives,—Andrew, of this sketch. The others were: Alma, the wife of George Beckett, who died in 1862; Caroline, who died in 1879 and Harriett, the wife of J. B. Lee, who died in 1867.

Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Wooden returned to Calhoun county in 1843, accompanied by her children. She of necessity endured many hardships in the new country, but lived to see the forests cleared away, the Michigan Central Railroad built, and the fields to blossom with abundant grain. In 1896 she died at the age of eighty-six years and ten days old, her daughters all having preceded her.

Andrew Wooden was married in 1863 to Nancie Kane, a native of Calhoun county. Her parents, George and Nancy (Stiles) Kane, were also among the early settlers, coming from New York state in 1833. To Andrew and Nancie (Kane) Wooden were born four children: Frances, the wife of A. D. Johnson; Lillian, who married R. H. Kernan; Rena, the wife of Guy Wells, and Mark. The son still lives with his father in the old homestead.

Mr. Wooden built his neat and attractive home in the year 1863. Two barns also have been reared on the place, one in 1862 and the other in 1872, as well as other out buildings, all in keeping with the character of the main structures. His farm of one hundred and forty acres is located five miles east, a few miles distant from Battle Creek and is known as one of the best improved places in the county.

Hosted by Google

The family circle remained unbroken until December 28, 1911, when Mrs. Wooden, at the age of seventy years, was called to join those who had passed before her.

CHARLES E. SAWYER. He whose name initiates this review is one of the able and well known civil engineers residing in Calhoun county and has been identified with much important work in connection with railroad construction, as well as topographical surveys, meandering of rivers, etc. He owns and resides upon an attractive farmstead of eighty-eight acres in Marshall township, and gives his attention to the same in connection with more or less work of a professional order. He has maintained his home in this county since 1896.

Mr. Sawyer claims the old Hoosier state as the place of his nativity, his birth occurring on a farm in Noble county, Indiana, on the 6th of July, 1860. He is a son of John and Catherine (Strater) Sawyer, the former of whom was born in Virginia and the latter in Germany, whence her parents immigrated to America and established their home in Noble county, Indiana, when she was a child. John Sawyer was reared to adult age in his native state and as a young man he numbered himself among the pioneers of Ohio, whence he later removed to Noble county, Indiana, there becoming a substantial farmer and a citizen who commanded unqualified confidence and esteem. He continued to reside there until his death, which occurred in 1908, and his venerable widow still lives on the old homestead farm in that county, near Kendallville.

Charles E. Sawyer gained his earlier educational discipline in the public schools of Kendallville, the judicial center of his native county, where he also attended a select school. Thereafter he continued his studies in what was then known as the Rockhill College, in the city of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Soon after attaining his legal majority Mr. Sawyer became identified with practical civil-engineering work, in the line of street and sewer grading, and later he was engaged in important engineering and construction work on the Michigan Central, the New York, Chicago & St. Louis, the Chicago & Northwestern, the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern, the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic, the Pittsburg, Bessemer & Lake Erie railways besides which in later years, he was concerned in the survey work on the electric interurban line between Jackson and Detroit. Since that time he has been identified with professional work in surveying rivers and creeks in Michigan,—especially in the matter of hydraulic topography and the installing of sewer systems, now with the interurban between Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids. He has been called upon for services of local order in the work of his profession and is one of the representative civil engineers of this section of the state. He has made excellent improvements upon his farm, which is devoted to diversified agriculture and stock-growing and he finds much satisfaction in supervising the varied activities of the attractive homestead.

Mr. Sawyer is distinctively progressive and public-spirited in his civic attitude and is a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party. He is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, and is a member of the Association of American Railway Engineers.

In the year 1897 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Sawyer to Miss Lizzie Laberteaux, daughter of the late Tunis Laberteaux, who was one of the early settlers of Marshall township and who was a citizen of no little prominence, and influence. Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer have three chil-

Hosted by Google

dren,—Leora, who is a successful and popular teacher in the public schools of the city of Marshall; Charles E., Jr., who is associated in the work and management of the home farm; and Marguerite, who still remains in the parental home, and is attending the Marshall public schools.

RICHARD R. HICKS. Wide-awake, enterprising and progressive, Richard R. Hicks is a splendid representative of the up-to-date business man and his connection with one of Battle Creek's most important industrial enterprises,—the American Steam Pump Company—has worked in no indefinite fashion towards the success of that concern. He has been associated with the same for seventeen years, and since 1908 has held the offices of secretary and assistant treasurer. He is, in fact, an able exponent of the progressive spirit and strong initiative ability which have caused Battle Creek to forge so rapidly forward as an industrial and commercial center.

Mr. Hicks is a native son of this city, his birth having occurred within its pleasant boundaries on May 13, 1871. He is the son of Charles H. and Frances (Moore) Hicks. The father was born in Perry, Wyoming county, New York, December 13, 1844, and died in Los Angeles, California, whence he had gone in quest of health, on May 8, 1881. He was connected with the business of Nichols & Shepard in this city for many years, and in honor of one who possessed the respect and affection of all with whom he came in contact the great factory was closed on the day of his funeral in this city, all that was mortal of him having been brought back from California for interment. Previous to the business connection mentioned, Mr. Hicks, the elder, was with the American Express Company. He was a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted at the age of seventeen years in Company C, of the Twentieth Michigan Infantry and having served as corporal. His military service covered more than three years of the period of the great conflict between the states. He was educated in the east and also in the schools of Battle Creek and was a graduate of the schools of this city. He was one of the charter members of the Athelstan Club.

Charles H. Hicks was the son of Ellery and Maribah (Wilcox) Hicks, and in the fall of 1851, his parents accompanied by their six children made the long and difficult overland journey from their old home to Michigan, proceeding by stage from Perry to Buffalo and thence by lake to Detroit, from which city they made the remainder of the trip to Battle Creek by rail. In New York, Ellery Hicks had been an iron manufacturer, but in the Wolverine state he turned his attention to other pursuits. In 1852 he purchased an interest in what is known today as the Titus & Hicks Flour Mill and operated the same until his demise which occurred in 1860. The mill is at present the property of S. J. Titus and William E. Hicks, the latter a son of Ellery Hicks and a brother of Charles H.

Charles H. Hicks was married June 24, 1868, Miss Frances E. Moore, of Battle Creek, daughter of William and Rebecca (Hamlet) Moore, becoming his wife. The Moores were early settlers here, having migrated to Battle Creek in 1854 from New Hampshire. William Moore was a Battle Creek shoe merchant and passed away, March 30, 1904, the demise of his wife having occurred many years before on September 16, 1860. He was a prominent Mason and this body held the last ceremonial rites and consigned his body to the grave. He was the father of two children, Mrs. Charles H. Hicks being the eldest and J. E. Moore, the younger. Mrs. Charles H. Hicks, mother of the immediate subject of this review, makes her home with her sons here and

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



John C. Reynolds. M.D.

Hosted by Google

was born in Nashville, New Hampshire. There are two sons, the subject being the elder. The other, Louis E., is also a citizen of Battle Creek.

As mentioned in a preceding paragraph, Mr. Hicks has been connected with the American Steam Pump Company of Battle Creek for the past seventeen years and since 1908 the duties of secretary and assistant treasurer have been vested in him. Previous to that he was cashier. During the world's fair in Chicago he resided in that city and was for a time in Detroit, but in 1895 came to Battle Creek and when the concern with which he is identified came into existence he started in with it at the beginning. Like his honored father, he is identified with the ancient and august Masonic order, having membership in Battle Creek Lodge, No. 12. He is also connected with the Elks and the Athelstan Club.

On November 4, 1897, Mr. Hicks became a recruit to the ranks of the benedicts, his chosen lady being Josephine A. Werstein, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leopold Werstein, of whom more extended mention is made on other pages of this work. Mrs. Hicks was born and reared here, being a pupil in the public schools and subsequently attending Sacred Heart Convent at Grosse Point, Detroit. She received her finishing education in the Anna Brown School for girls in New York City. To Mr. and Mrs. Hicks have been born two children, but both are deceased. John W., born December 13, 1898, died on December 17, 1898; and Frances Josephine, born May 2, 1900, died November 29, 1909. The Hicks residence, one of the favorite gathering-places of the city, is located at 60 Chestnut street.

Louis E. Hicks, brother of the foregoing, was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, July 28, 1879 and here received his education. He is associated with the Postum Cereal Company, Ltd., having charge of the personal books of C. W. Post. He has been with Mr. Post for fifteen years and for awhile was employed in the general offices. From May, 1903, until May, 1904, Mr. Hicks was in Peoria, Illinois, in the interest of Mr. Post, that gentleman manufacturing health sugar and candy at that point. The enterprise lasted only for the comparatively brief period of fourteen months, as the machinations of the sugar trust made it impossible for them to secure sufficient sugar to run their plant. One of the fifteen years in which he has been associated with Mr. Post, Mr. Hicks was with the Malta Vita Company—from May, 1902, to May, 1903. His relations with this representative Battle Creek firm have always been of the happiest character. Mr. Hicks is a member of the Athelstan Club and is a loyal adherent of the Republican party.

On December 14, 1904, Mr. Hicks was united in marriage to Miss Myrta Louise Johnson, of this city, daughter of Joseph S. Johnson. Mr. Johnson is one of Battle Creek's pioneer mail carriers, having been in the service of Uncle Sam for over twenty years. The mother, who died in March, 1894, was Emma Jane Johnson previous to her marriage. The father and two sisters make their home at 68 Merritt street, this city. Mrs. Hicks was born and educated here and is the second of her father's three daughters, Eva being the eldest and Helen the youngest. Mr. and Mrs. Hicks share their home with one son, Richard Joseph, born in this city, November 24, 1906. Their home is situated at 26 Chestnut street. Mrs. Charles H. Hicks resides the greater part of the year with them, but usually goes south in the winter. The name of Hicks is one held in high esteem in this city.

JOHN C. REYNOLDS, M. D. The professional career of Dr. Reynolds excites the admiration and has won the respect of his contemporaries,

Hosted by Google

and in a calling in which one has to gain reputation by merit he has advanced steadily until he is acknowledged as the superior of most of the members of the profession in this part of the state, having long since left the ranks of the many to stand among the successful few. He has been most successfully engaged in the practice of his profession at Battle Creek for the past thirty years and here he is recognized as a citizen of intrinsic loyalty and public spirit.

A native of Canada, John C. Reynolds was born near Port Hope, Province of Ontario, April 15, 1857, and he is a son of Francis and Margaret (Kells) Reynolds, both of whom are deceased, the former of whom died in 1885 and the latter of whom passed away in 1908, at the age of eighty-six years. Francis Reynolds was a prosperous farmer in Canada during his early life; he was the owner of a large estate but, being possessed of an extremely kind heart, he signed notes for a number of would-be friends and eventually lost practically everything he owned prior to his demise. His last words to his children were to the effect that none of them should ever sign a note for a friend. In 1862 he left his native heath and came to the United States, locating in Rochester, New York, where he remained for a period of three years, at the expiration of which he came to Battle Creek, Michigan, here passing the remainder of his life. After disposing of his farm in Canada he turned his attention to other lines of business, in which he achieved a fair success. Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds became the parents of five boys and six girls, of whom but four boys and one girl are living, in 1912, namely,—Margaret, who is the widow of Ezra Kipp and who resides on Adams street in Battle Creek; Frank, the oldest child, is now a resident of Pensacola, Florida; William maintains his home in Texas; Dr. John C. is the immediate subject of this review; and Joseph W. is an attorney at Duluth, Minnesota. One brother, Thomas, was drowned at Battle Creek when twenty-one years of age.

Dr. John C. Reynolds received his early educational training in the public schools of Rochester, New York, whither his parents removed when he was a child of five years of age, and in the schools of Battle Creek. At the age of nineteen years he began studying medicine under the able preceptorship of Dr. Austin S. Johnson, of Battle Creek. Subsequently he attended a course of lectures at the Pulte Medical College, in Cincinnati, Ohio, in which excellent institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1882, duly receiving his degree of Doctor of Medicine. He initiated the active practice of his profession at Battle Creek immediately after leaving college and has been a practicing physician in this place ever since. In order to better qualify himself for his chosen work he took a post-graduate course in the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College in 1895. He controls a large general practice but devotes special attention to the diseases of the head, throat and lungs, along which lines he is particularly skillful. In connection with his work he is a valued and appreciative member of the Michigan State Medical Homeopathic Society and in a fraternal way he is affiliated with A. T. Metcalf Lodge, No. 419, Free and Accepted Masons; and ——— Commandery, of the Knights Templars. He is also connected with the Knights of Pythias. In politics he is a stalwart Republican and he has served as alderman of the Fifth ward for two terms. He is the owner of a great deal of valuable city property, both business and residential, and his home and office are at No. 16 North Division street. No one in this city holds a higher place in the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens than does Dr. Reynolds, who manifests so deep and sincere an interest in all matters affecting the general welfare.

On the 5th of August, 1885, Dr. Reynolds married Mrs. Elizabeth

Hosted by Google

H. Briggs, a daughter of Major Hudson, who was a resident of Paw Paw, Michigan, prior to his demise, in 1884. Their only daughter Aline B.—married D. Graham Wells of Detroit, and they have four children, Martha E., Helen, Mirian, John A.

CHARLES H. ETSON. The career of Charles H. Etson offers both lesson and incentive to the younger generation because he has, through his own unaided efforts, carved a name for himself and achieved a success which is well worthy of recognition and emulation. He has ever been on the alert to forward all measures and enterprises projected for the good of the general welfare and has served his community in various official capacities of trust and responsibility. He has been highway commissioner and has also served as justice of the peace of Pennfield township. He is the owner of a finely improved farm of two hundred acres in Pennfield township and devotes his attention to diversified agriculture and stock-raising.

Charles H. Etson was born in Michigan, September 16, 1835, and he is a son of Caleb M. and Lovina (McArthur) Etson, the former being born in New York state. Caleb Etson came to Michigan in 1835 and settled on a farm. Two years later he met with financial reverses and lost everything. He then moved to Eaton county, Michigan, where he took up land and again took up the responsibilities of life where he had started before, and for thirty years thereafter he made his home in Eaton county. He then went to the west, where he remained for a few years, returning to Michigan where he passed his remaining days. Solomon McArthur, the maternal grandfather of Charles H. Etson, was born and reared in New York, and he passed away in Michigan, whither he came in 1840.

To the public schools of his native place Charles H. Etson is indebted for his preliminary educational training and for two terms he was a pupil in the public schools of Battle Creek. He had been variously engaged until 1870, in which year he purchased a small tract of land and engaged in farming. He has since added to his original purchase and now has an estate of two hundred acres embracing some of the best land in Calhoun county.

Mr. Etson has ever given his political allegiance to the Republican party and has served that organization in various capacities of important order. He has been honored by his fellow citizens with election to the office of highway commissioner and justice of the peace, serving in the latter capacity for a period of years. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a healthful interest in the various departments of the good works of that body. Although now in his seventy-seventh year, Mr. Etson is still strong and active and retains all the elasticity and energy of his earlier years. He is a public-spirited citizen and a kind, generous-hearted friend, who is never to be found wanting when his services are required in behalf of those less fortunate than himself.

In 1859 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Etson to Miss Mary A. VanVolkenborgh, a daughter of Adam VanVolkenborgh, who came from New York to Michigan in 1844. Mr. and Mrs. Etson are the parents of five children: Frank owns and operates a farm; Dennis assists his father on the home farm, and Genevieve, Door and Fred all reside at home.

STEPHEN W. THOMPSON. A retired farmer of Marshall, and a citizen of good repute and high standing, Stephen W. Thompson proudly wore the "blue" during the Civil war, bravely doing his duty in camp

Hosted by Google

and on the field of battle, and also suffering for a time the hardships and horrors of prison life. He was born, July 31, 1842, in Oakland county, Michigan, of English lineage. His father, John B. Thompson, a native of England, immigrated to America in 1833, coming almost directly to Michigan. He subsequently married Mary Jane Baker, who was also born and reared in England, and settled on a farm in Springfield township, Oakland county, where he remained a number of years, being engaged in tilling the soil and raising stock. On retiring from active labor, he removed to Marshall. Of their children, the following named grew to years of maturity: Margaret, Sarah, Stephen W., John C., and James M.

Brought up on the home farm, Stephen W. Thompson was well drilled in the rudimentary branches of study in the rural schools of Oakland county, and as a youth became exceedingly familiar with farm work of all kinds. On August 20, 1862, inspired by patriotic ardor, he enlisted in Company B, Fifth Michigan Cavalry, which was commanded by Colonel Broadhead, and with his regiment went to the front, where he participated in several engagements, including the battle at Gettysburg. Captured by the enemy, Mr. Thompson was taken first to Richmond, thence to Libby Prison, from there being sent to Belle Isle. Being paroled in March, 1864, Mr. Thompson was granted a furlough, and spent two months at his home. On May 7, 1864, he rejoined his regiment in Annapolis, Maryland, and the following few months saw active service at Winchester, and at other points, being honorably discharged from service June 27, 1865, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Returning home, Mr. Thompson remained in Oakland county for some time. When ready to begin farming for himself he came to Calhoun county, and having purchased forty acres of land in Clarence township at once began its improvement. Laboring earnestly and judiciously, he put the land under a good state of cultivation, erected a substantial set of buildings, and was there prosperously engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1903. Removing then with his family to Marshall, Mr. Thompson has since devoted his time to his general affairs. Having been severely injured in the breast while serving as a soldier, Mr. Thompson is badly crippled, being unable to perform much manual labor, and on account of his affliction he draws a good pension. He is an active and prominent member of the C. Colegrove Post, No. 166, Grand Army of the Republic, which he has served as commander two years. A straightforward Republican in politics, Mr. Thompson has filled some township offices, including those of highway commissioner and township treasurer.

In 1870 Mr. Thompson married Anna Britton, of Oakland county, a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Cash) Britton. She was born in England in 1841. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are the parents of three children, namely: Elmer L., a farmer in Clarence township; Winnie, wife of Willis Hammond, of Marshall; and Flora B., who married Rev. John Bretz, a Methodist Episcopal minister.

JOHN HEYSER, actively identified with industrial and manufacturing interests in Calhoun county, Michigan, makes his home at Battle Creek. He is deeply interested in community affairs and his efforts have also been a potent element in the business progress of this section of the state. He has with ready recognition of opportunity directed his labors into various fields wherein he has achieved success, and at the same time has conducted a business enterprise that has proved of more than local value, largely promoting the commercial activity of the state.

Hosted by Google

Mr. Heyser is general superintendent of the Union Steam Pump Company of Battle Creek and is president of the Advance Pump & Compressor Company of this city.

A native of Marshall, Michigan, John Heyser was born on the 3d of January, 1858. He is a son of Phillip and Agnes (Schmidt) Heyser, both of whom were born in Germany and both of whom are now deceased. On other pages of this work appears a sketch of Frederick J. Heyser, brother of the subject of this review, and therein is given a summary of the lives of the parents, so that further data in that connection is not deemed necessary at this juncture.

John Heyser was educated in the public schools of Marshall, Michigan, and as a youth he learned the machinist's trade in the Michigan Central Railroad shops, at Jackson, Michigan, working there for a period of seven years, at the expiration of which he came to Battle Creek, where for three months he was in the employ of the Grand Trunk Railway Company. Soon thereafter he began to work for the firm of Nichols & Shepard, remaining with that concern for five years. In 1885 a number of mechanics started a jobbing shop, which was a copartnership business and which included the following men: Mr. Allen Preston, Mr. James Gridley, Mr. Edward Keet and the subject of this notice. One year and a half later this copartnership was merged into the Union Manufacturing Company of Battle Creek. In 1891 the concern was reorganized into what is now the Union Steam Pump Company, in which Mr. Heyser is a heavy stockholder. He is the only one of the original founders still connected with the company and he has been general superintendent of the concern since 1893. The Union Steam Pump Company are manufacturers of the Burnham and the Moore steam pumps and they also manufacture air compressors, condensers and power pumps. The plant at Battle Creek is well equipped in every detail and a splendid business is controlled by the company. Mr. Heyser is likewise connected with the Advance Pump & Compressor Company of Battle Creek, being president thereof. He is a director and stockholder in the Old National Bank of this city and is financially interested in a number of other business enterprises of broad scope and importance.

In politics Mr. Heyser is an uncompromising supporter of the principles and policies for which the Republican party stands sponsor and in a fraternal way he is affiliated with the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks; the Athelstan Club and the Country Club. He is a shrewd business man and an enterprising citizen and is held in high esteem by his fellow men, who honor him for his exemplary life and sterling integrity of character.

November 24, 1887, Mr. Heyser was united in marriage to Miss Amelia Weickgenant, a sister of Jacob Weickgenant, one of Battle Creek's most prosperous merchants. Mr. and Mrs. Heyser have four children—three boys and one girl, namely,—Harold L., who was graduated in the Battle Creek high school in 1908 and who is now a student in the University of Michigan; Agnes was graduated in the Battle Creek high school in the class of 1911; and Richard and Robert are both pupils in the Battle Creek public schools. The Heyser home is maintained at No. 181 North avenue and it is a center of most generous hospitality.

ROBERT A. ROE. Among the families identified by long residence and influential activities with Calhoun county is the one which was founded here in 1876 by the late Robert A. Roe, who died at his home near Battle Creek, April 6, 1894. His family are still represented in

Hosted by Google

the city and county and are well known and public-spirited citizens.

Robert A. Roe was born at Kennitty, Kings county, Ireland, in 1824, and had reached the age of three-score and ten at the time of his death. Reared and educated in his native land, he landed at New York during the fifties, and for many years was a resident and successful business man in Brooklyn. He conducted a hardware store across the river in New York city in the days before the erection of the Roebling suspension bridge, when a ferry was the only means of getting over East river. In the spring of 1876 he moved west and located on a small farm of about thirty-eight acres just outside the present city limits of Battle Creek. This place, in Bedford township, is now called Washington Heights. Here he was quietly engaged in the occupation of farming until overtaken by death nearly twenty years later.

In his boyhood home in Ireland he had played with and in boy fashion domineered over a little girl named Mary J. Duncan. In 1849 her parents had emigrated to America and located in Pittsburg, where she was reared and lived until about 1866, when she took up her residence with a brother in Brooklyn. Here she again met the companion of former years, and whom as a child she had disliked so much. But this did not interfere with their pleasant course of love and courtship, and in 1868 they were united in marriage at her brother's home in Meadville, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Mary (Duncan) Roe was born in 1835 and surviving her husband fifteen years died in Battle Creek, October 21, 1909, being at the time of one of the oldest residents on Green street where her home was.

Several of Mrs. Roe's brothers attained prominence in the business world. One of them was Thomas J. Duncan, who died in Belfast, Ireland, June 1, 1871. He was frail in health and never married, and much of his wealth went to the cause of religion and charity. He was an intimate friend of the late Bishop Matthew Simpson of the Methodist church, and traveled extensively in his company through Europe and elsewhere, contributing liberally to causes which the Bishop advocated. His name is especially remembered here in Battle Creek because of his gift of ten thousand dollars to the Methodist church, a donation which was made in the sixties when gifts of such size were rare. Other brothers of Mrs. Roe were William C., George S., Richard C. Frank H. and Col. James F. Duncan. George S. Duncan more than sixty years ago entered a telegraph office at Pittsburg as a messenger boy, and his immediate predecessor in that humble capacity was Andrew Carnegie, who had by dint of application gained his first promotion toward business eminence by becoming a telegraph operator, and young Duncan was soon advanced in a similar way. Colonel James Duncan was a well known oil operator in the early days of the Ohio oil fields.

The late Robert A. Roe and wife were the parents of four children: William George, who died in childhood; Clara B., now a resident of Ypsilanti; Robert Percy, of Battle Creek (see sketch elsewhere); and Jessie L., who resides in the old home in Battle Creek. The three oldest were born in Brooklyn, and Miss Jessie in Battle Creek, and all of them attended the Battle Creek schools. Clara graduated from the high school in 1894 and from the University of Michigan in 1904. Miss Jessie is a graduate of the high school class of 1897 and from the University of Michigan with the class of 1902. The family's religious choice has been the St. Thomas Episcopal church.

ASAHEL BEACH, M. D. Dr. Beach was one of the honored and influential pioneers of Calhoun county, where he established his home about three years prior to the admission of Michigan to statehood, and

Hosted by Google

he played a large and benignant part in connection with the development and upbuilding of this now opulent section of the Wolverine commonwealth, the while he exemplified these sterling traits of character which ever beget objective confidence and esteem. Well, indeed, may a publication of the province assigned to the one at hand, pay a tribute of honor to this worthy pioneer, and it is deemed a privilege to enter in these pages a brief review of his career. Dr. Beach was one of those favored mortals whom nature launches into the world with the heritage of a sturdy ancestry, a masterful mind, and energy enough for many men. Planted in a metropolis, he would have used his talents in competing with and uplifting his fellow men. Planted in the wilderness, he used them in developing the things that the environment needed. He was the type of a true gentleman and a representative of the best in the community, —dignified, and yet possessed of an affability that won to him warm friends among all classes and conditions of men.

Dr. Asahel Beach was born at Cambridge, Washington county, New York, on Christmas day of the year 1799, and was a son of Thomas and Mary Beach, honored pioneers of that county, where the father devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits and was a man of prominence and influence in the community. The lineage of the Beach family is traced back to stanch English origin, and representatives of the name settled in New England in the early colonial epoch of our national history. The parents of Dr. Beach continued to reside in Washington county, New York, until the close of their lives, and their names have enduring place on the roll of the sterling pioneers of that section of the Empire state. Dr. Beach was reared to the sturdy discipline of the home farm and in the meanwhile availed himself of the advantages of the common schools of the locality and period. This discipline was supplemented by a course of study in a well ordered academy in his native town, and in 1821 he began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Thomas Beach, Jr., who was his kinsman and a representative physician and surgeon of Ontario county, New York. Later he continued his technical studies under the effective preceptorship of Dr. A. G. Smith, who likewise was one of the eminent representatives of the medical profession in western New York. After such preliminary training Dr. Beach went to Vermont and entered the Vermont Medical College, at Castleton, Rutland county, in which institution he attended two courses of lectures. He was graduated on the 24th of December, 1824, and received from this excellent college his well earned degree of Doctor of Medicine. Thereafter he gave his attention for some time to post-graduate study and research, under the direction of Dr. Anderson, who was professor of anatomy and operative surgery in a medical college in the city of Albany, New York. Thus admirably fortified for the work of his chosen profession, Dr. Beach engaged in active general practice at Victor, Ontario county, New York, where he remained about ten years and where his success was of unequivocal order.

In the year 1834 Dr. Beach came to Michigan and numbered himself among the pioneers of Calhoun county, this section of the state at that time having been little more than a forest wilderness. He located in township of Milton, now called Emmett township, where he secured a tract of about nine hundred and sixty acres of heavily timbered land. His intention was to devote himself to the reclaiming and cultivation of a farm in the new country, but he soon found his services much in requisition in ministering in a professional way to the settlers throughout a wide area of country. He was one of the first physicians and surgeons to engage in practice in Calhoun county, and in his work he lived up to the full tension of the pioneer days,—riding on horseback through

Hosted by Google

winter's blasts and summer's heat to minister to those in affliction and distress, and encountering hardships that the physician of the present day would consider far too great to endure. It is needless to say that he became the friend and counselor of the pioneer families and that he gained the affectionate regard of those to whom he ministered with so much of ability and self-abnegation,—especially during the season of 1838, when much sickness prevailed throughout this section. He continued in the active work of his profession until about 1858, when he retired, his removal to the village of Battle Creek having taken place in October, 1843. In the meanwhile he had effected the development of much of his land, which he had brought under effective cultivation. He wielded much influence in the community and was known as a man of sterling character, fine intellectual and professional attainments, and most progressive ideas. He gave his co-operation in the support of all things tending to advance the material and social welfare of the community and was identified with various industrial and business enterprises after establishing his home in Battle Creek, where he continued to reside until his death, which occurred on the 29th of December, 1879. His loved and devoted wife, a woman of singularly gentle and gracious personality, was summoned to the life eternal on the 1st of March of the same year, so that in death they were not long divided.

In politics Dr. Beach was originally an old-line Whig, but upon the organization of the Republican party he espoused its cause, and he ever afterward continued a stanch and influential advocate of its principles and policies.

On the 24th of October, 1826, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Beach to Miss Martha Ann Cady, who was born at Mendon, Monroe county, New York, on the 24th of October, 1809, and the date of whose death has already been noted. Her father, General Cholett Cady, was a pioneer of western New York and gained his military title through belonging to the home militia. Dr. and Mrs. Beach became the parents of four children, and of the number the only survivor is Cholett C. Beach, who is treasurer of the Nichols & Shepard Company, of Battle Creek, and concerning whom individual mention is made on other pages of this work. Concerning the other children the following brief data are given: Martha A. was born on the 20th of November, 1831, and died on the 1st of November, 1834, while the family were en route to the new home in Michigan; Mary became the wife of Frank N. Bennett and passed the closing years of her life in Battle Creek, Michigan, where her death occurred on the 24th of November, 1880; and Thomas S. was a resident of Dayton, in the state of Washington, at the time of his death, which there occurred on the 5th of December, 1893.

Cholett C. Beach. On other pages of this publication is consistently entered a memoir to that honored pioneer, the late Dr. Asahel Beach, who was numbered among the earliest settlers of Calhoun county, and in the article mentioned is given adequate information concerning the family history, so that a reptition of the data is not demanded in the present sketch,—that of the career of the only surviving child of Dr. Asahel and Martha Ann (Cady) Beach. He whose name initiates this review is a native son of Calhoun county and here he has well upheld the prestige of the honored name which he bears. He has long been numbered among the representative citizens and influential business men of Battle Creek, where he is treasurer of the Nichols & Shepard Company, the great industrial concern which has done more than any other agency to further the commercial precedence of the

Hosted by Google

metropolis of Calhoun county. Of this corporation due mention is made elsewhere in this publication.

Cholett Cady Beach was born on the old homestead farm, four miles east of Battle Creek, in Milton township, on the 24th of November, 1836, the year prior to the admission of Michigan as one of the sovereign states of the federal Union, and his memory thus forms an indissoluble link between the early pioneer epoch and the latter days of opulent progress and prosperity. He was reared under the benignant influences of the pioneer era and his early educational advantages were those afforded in the schools of Battle Creek, which was then a mere village. In 1855-6 he was enabled to complete an effective course in a commercial college in the city of Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Beach was about seven years of age when, in October, 1843, the family removed from the farm to Battle Creek, where he has maintained his home during the major part of the long intervening years and where he has contributed his quota to the development and upbuilding of a thriving industrial and commercial city. As a youth he secured a position as clerk in the dry-goods store of Leicester Buckley, and in this capacity he continued about four years.

In the year 1858 Mr. Beach became associated with his brother-in-law, the late Frank N. Bennett, in the retail crockery business, which they conducted, under the firm name of Bennett & Beach, for a period of about three years, after which Mr. Beach was employed in turn as a clerk in the retail grocery of John Gowdy & Son and in the banking establishment of Alexander C. Hamblin. In 1864 he went to the city of Chicago, where he became associated with his uncle, David Cady, in the produce commission business, under the title of Cady & Beach. He remained in Chicago until 1866, when he responded to the overtures made by his former employer, Alexander C. Hamblin, with whom he became associated in the private banking business in Battle Creek, under the title of A. C. Hamblin & Company. This alliance continued about ten years and the enterprise proved most prosperous.

On the 1st of February, 1879, Mr. Beach initiated his connection with the Nichols & Shepard Company, and he has since continued to be identified with the same, the while he has been one of the influential factors in the development of its splendid industrial enterprise, that of manufacturing grain separators and other agricultural machinery,—in which line it is excelled in extent and importance by no concern in the world. In the early years Mr. Beach had charge for some time of the collection department of the business, and after a year's absence, on account of impaired health, he assumed the office of cashier for the company. This position he retained consecutively until the death of John Nichols, one of the founders of the business, when he was made treasurer of the company, an office in which he has served continuously since 1891. Mr. Beach has made an enviable record as a conservative, reliable and progressive business man, and no citizen of Battle Creek has more secure place in popular confidence and esteem. He is a stockholder and director of the Nichols & Shepard Company and also of the Old National Bank of Battle Creek.

As a loyal and public-spirited citizen Mr. Beach has ever stood ready to lend his influence and tangible co-operation in the furtherance of measures and enterprises projected for the general good of his home city, county and state, and while he has had naught of desire for the honors or emoluments of political office and has refused to become a candidate for the same, he accords a stanch allegiance to the Republican party. With abiding filial faith and admiration he states that the only reason he is a Republican is because his father was. Both he and

Hosted by Google

his wife are valued members of the Independent Congregational church of Battle Creek; he is affiliated with Battle Creek Lodge, No. 12, Free and Accepted Masons; is a charter member of the Country Club, of which he was the first president; and is a charter member of the Athelstan Club, of which likewise he has served as president. He finds his most effective and inspiring source of recreation through his insistent devotion to the game of golf and to other outdoor sports, and his prowess on the links is of no uncertain order, reinforced as it is by his presence on the fine golf course of the Country Club on every pleasant afternoon during the golf season. The game has no more ardent devotee in Battle Creek, and the mention of its name in the presence of Mr. Beach is certain to call forth words of enthusiastic appreciation on his part. He was for many years an adept in the fine old sport of archery, in which connection he made some of the best scores tallied to those participating in the game, and on one occasion, at a meeting of representative archers in the city of Chicago, he had the enviable distinction of winning the American championship. He still retains his appreciation of and fondness for all normal outdoor sports and recreations. Mr. Beach resides at 23 Beach street, a thoroughfare named in honor of his father, and is the owner of other valuable realty in his native county. The home is a center of refined and gracious hospitality, under the regime of its popular chatelaine, Mrs. Beach, who is a leader in connection with the best social activities of the community.

At Jackson, Windham county, Vermont, on the 21st of April, 1861, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Beach to Miss Eva Luana Peebles. Mrs. Beach was born at Marathon, Cortland county, New York, and is a daughter of James and Nancy (Brown) Peebles, concerning whom, and the family history, due mention is made in the sketch of the career of her brother, Dr. James M. Peebles, on other pages of this work, so that further mention is not required at this juncture. Mrs. Beach was afforded the advantages of excellent schools in the state of Vermont and also attended school for a time in Battle Creek, Michigan. She is an active and appreciative member of the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and is one of the leading members of the Woman's Club, one of the most prominent literary organizations of Battle Creek, as well as of the Woman's League, another representative organization. She is specially active in church and club work and is a woman of fine intellectuality and most gracious personality, with a wide circle of friends in the city which has so long been her home and in which she and her husband celebrated their golden-wedding anniversary on the 21st of April, 1911. They became the parents of three children, of whom two are living: Martha B., who is the wife of Dr. Carl C. Warden, a representative physician and surgeon in the city of Los Angeles, California; and Nancy B., who is the wife of Frederick I. Griswold, a clerk in the city water office of Battle Creek. The daughters were born and reared in Battle Creek, to whose public schools they are indebted for their early education. Mrs. Warden completed her literary education in Helmuth College, at London, province of Ontario, Canada, in which institution she was graduated; and Mrs. Griswold is a graduate of the Misses Leggitt's school for young women, in the city of Detroit. Mrs. Warden has two children—Helen Luana, who is now (1912) a student of music under Madame Zigler, in New York city; and Cholett Beach, who was named in honor of his maternal grandfather and who is now a student at the Evans school, at Mesa, Arizona.

Hosted by Google

JAMES M. PEEBLES, M. D., M. A., Ph. D. Distinguished as a physician and surgeon, as an extensive traveler and as a man of high intellectual attainments, Dr. Peebles, who has attained to the patriarchial age of ninety years, has left a definite and benignant impress upon his day and generation, and his multifarious contributions along literary lines of the higher order are certain to perpetuate his name and talents long after he shall have passed from the scene of life's mortal endeavors. He has spent a very appreciable portion of his later years in Battle Creek, and it is most consonant that in this history of Calhoun county be entered a brief review of his particularly interesting career.

Dr. Peebles was born at Whitingham, Windham county, Vermont, on the 22d of March, 1822, and is the eldest son in a family of eight children born to James and Nancy (Brown) Peebles. More than a century ago the father served as captain of a company of militia in southern Vermont, and there he was familiarly known as "Captain Jim Peebles." He was long numbered among the representative agriculturalists of Windham county and was a man of prominence and influence in his community. He was called upon to serve in various town and county offices and he ever commanded secure vantage ground in the confidence and esteem of his fellow men.

The Peebles family was founded in New England in the early colonial epoch and the name was most closely and worthily linked with the industrial and civic development of that section, which was the cradle of much of our national history. The lineage is traced back to the staunchest of Scottish origin, the ancestral records of authentic order date from the seventh century. In the eleventh century the Peebles family was one of the most distinguished and influential in the north of Europe. The county of Peebleshire, Scotland, was named in honor of this family, and the old town of Peebles, of that county, is the ancestral home, the same being situated on the river Tweed, twenty-two miles south of the city of Edinburgh. This ancient town was at a very early period a favorite resort of Scottish kings, who found diversion in hunting game in the neighboring forests of Ettrick. John Peebles attained to an earldom and in the works of Sir Walter Scott is made mention of this impetuous scion of a family whose name has been one of marked prominence in the history of Scotland and one of close connection with Scottish royalty.

James and Nancy (Brown) Peebles, parents of him whose name initiates this review, passed the closing years of their lives at Shelburne Falls, Franklin county, Massachusetts, and in the cemetery at that place their remains were laid to rest. Patrick Peebles, grandfather of the Doctor, came to America in company with two of his brothers and they made settlement in one of the Massachusetts colonies, whence representatives of the name later removed to Vermont. Josiah Brown, great-grandfather of Dr. Peebles on the maternal side, was a valiant soldier with the Continental forces in the war of the Revolution, in which he participated in the battle of Bunker Hill, his company having been the last to retreat before the onslaught of the British regulars. He was born January 30, 1742, at Concord, Massachusetts, and his death occurred at New Ipswich, New Hampshire, on the 18th of March, 1831. He enlisted for service in the Revolutionary war on the 10th of May, 1775, and was mustered out on the 11th of the following July. He was first lieutenant of his company, of which Ezra Towne was captain, and the regiment was commanded by Colonel James Reed.

Dr. James Peebles passed the days of his boyhood and youth in the states of Vermont and New York and was afforded excellent educational advantages of a preliminary order. His academic or collegiate course was completed in the Oxford Academy, in the latter state, and in the

Hosted by Google

same he was graduated as a member of the class of 1841, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Later the degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon him by the same institution. In preparation for the work of his chosen profession, Dr. Peebles was matriculated in the Philadelphia University of Medicine & Surgery, in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and in this excellent institution he was graduated in 1876, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Later he received honorary diplomas from several leading medical colleges, in recognition of his distinguished attainments and service in his profession. The Doctor initiated the practice of medicine in Philadelphia but during the greater part of his active professional career he maintained his home at Battle Creek, Michigan. In addition to other notable literary work he has made many and valuable contributions to standard and periodical publications devoted to medical and surgical science. For several years he was a member of the faculty of the Eclectic Medical College in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, and later he served as president of the College of Science in the city of Los Angeles, California. Residing in Battle Creek for a period of about half a century, he was here engaged in the successful practice of his profession, in connection with the work of which he founded the Peebles Institute of Medicine, in which he had as his effective coadjutor Dr. W. Thompson Bobo, under whose management the institute is still maintained as a beneficent and flourishing institution, Dr. Peebles being its president.

Dr. Peebles has received distinguished recognition on the part of many learned societies, and it may be noted that he is a member of the New Orleans Academy of Science; the Anthropological Society of London, England; a fellow and honorary member of the Psychological Association of the same city; a fellow of the Academy of Arts and Sciences at Naples, Italy; a fellow of the American Society of Science; a member of the International Climatological Association, the American Institute of Christian Philosophy and the Victoria Institute and Philosophical Society of Great Britain.

Dr. Peebles has owned and edited six different newspapers and is the author of many volumes upon professional scientific, hygienic and general literary subjects, besides those giving record of his extensive travels, together with innumerable tracts, pamphlets and other brochures. Admirably preserved in mental and physical powers, notwithstanding his venerable age, he exemplified in his wonderful vitality the principles of living which he has ever striven to inculcate and he is at the present time writing for thirty or more magazines and other periodicals in this and foreign countries. Some of his works were published in London and Australia, and many of his books have gained extensive circulation. An edition of fully twenty thousand copies was required to meet the demand for his interesting and valuable work entitled "How to Live a Century and Grow Old Gracefully."

Few Americans have traveled more widely over the habitable globe or have gained from such source more than has Dr. Peebles. He has circumnavigated the globe five times and has made prolonged sojourns in India, Egypt and Palestine, with especially extensive research and study in the Babylonian regions. He has visited Mexico and has written comprehensively concerning the ruins of Uxmal, Palanque and other prehistoric and buried cities of Yucatan. In connection with his travels he has lectured in many leading foreign cities and in every state of the American Union except South Carolina.

In the climateric period leading up to and culminating in the Civil was Mr. Peebles was one of the most implacable opponents of the institution of human slavery, and he was known as one of the most ardent

Hosted by Google

of abolitionists, his residence at this time having been in the city of Baltimore, Maryland. He espoused the cause of the Republican party at the time of its organization and has since continued a stalwart advocate of its principles and policies. In 1869 President Grant appointed him to the important post of United States consul in Trebizonde, a city of one hundred and seventy thousand population, in Asiatic Turkey, and he held this position about two years. In 1868 he had been appointed a member of the Northwestern Congressional Indian Peace Commission, in the deliberations of which body he took an active part, his associate members being Generals Harney, Sheridan, Sherman and Sanborn and Colonel Tappan. In 1881 the Doctor was appointed representative of the United States as a delegate to the meeting of the International Arbitration League, in the city of Paris, France. He has been for many years affiliated with various Masonic bodies, including the Knights Templar, and also with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Sons of Temperance and the Independent Order of Good Templars, of which last named organization he was one of the founders and in which he was the first incumbent of the office of right worthy grand chaplain of the national grand lodge.

In his religious views Dr. Peebles is broad and liberal, and his investigations and study along these lines have been carried far and appreciatively. He has the deepest reverence for spiritual verities, as represented in the various religions of the world, and he has written extensively upon the doctrines and general religious history of the Brahmins, the Buddhists and the Parsees. He is unalterably opposed to warfare, which he considers but a relic of barbarism and as aggregate murder as little justified as that of individual order. Under these conditions it has been but natural and consistent that he should have taken for many years an active and influential part in the affairs of the Universal Peace Union. The doctor has been a close student of sanitary and hygienic matters and to the same has brought the broad scientific knowledge and wide and varied experience gained in connection with the work of his profession. He is a rigid vegetarian and has been for nearly three-fourths of a century a staunch advocate of temperance, woman suffrage and other reforms, being a bitter opponent of the practice of vaccination and of vivisection. Though now ninety years of age (1912), he is vigorous in mind and body and has the appearance of a man many years his junior. He has obeyed the laws of nature, and right living and right thinking have made him a patriarch whose course challenges admiration and emulation. In the gracious evening of a long and useful life he finds himself compassed by those benignant influences which make for serene content and happiness, and he has not in the least abated his lively interest in the questions and issues of the hour or the welfare and progress of the race. He maintains his home in the city of Los Angeles, California, during the greater part of each year, but makes regular visits to the home of his sister, Mrs. Cholett C. Beach, of Battle Creek, so that he continues to be well known in Calhoun county, Michigan, where he has a wide circle of loyal and valued friends.

On the 23d of May, 1852, Dr. Peebles was united in marriage to Miss Mary M. Conkey, daughter of Thomas H. Conkey, of St. Lawrence county, New York. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Peebles was a teacher in the Clinton Liberal Institute, at Clinton, New York. She was an accomplished artist and was a devout communicant of the Protestant Episcopal church, in which she was an ardent worker. She passed away, at Hammonton, Atlantic county, New Jersey, in April, 1909.

Hosted by Google

WILLIAM C. HUNT. For nearly a half century Mr. Hunt has been identified with Calhoun county, where he began his career on a little farm, and where he has won prosperity and has lived with honor for many years. He is one of the Grand Army men still living in this county, and he is now retired and has a pleasant home in the city of Marshall.

William C. Hunt was born in New York, March 17, 1842, on a farm where his father, William Hunt, then lived. The mother's name was Jane (French) Hunt. Five years later the family moved to Ohio, where the father died, the mother having died in New York. When William was a mere lad he was left an orphan, he was then bound out to a farmer until he was fourteen years old. This home and its surroundings were not very pleasing, and the boy later returned to New York and made his home with a sister. He had a meagre schooling, and most of his youth was spent in the labor of earning his living, so that he has been dependent on his own resources practically all his life, and all his prosperity has been the result of his own efforts.

Up to the time he was twenty-one he worked as a farm hand, and with the savings from this employment he came to Calhoun county and bought a little place of twenty acres, where he began his practical career as a farmer. In the spring of 1865 he volunteered for the service of his country and was taken into the Twenty-fourth Michigan Infantry, of which Colonel Monroe was commander. The first camp was at Unionville, and then three months were spent in drill and preparation at Camp Butler, in Springfield, Illinois. After several months service during the closing scenes of the great war, the regiment was returned to Michigan, and after a brief confinement in hospital Mr. Hunt was discharged in June. The little farm then became the scene of his labors, and with increasing prosperity he soon afterward bought a hundred acres in the same neighborhood. For thirty odd years he was known as one of the successful farmers and stock raisers of Calhoun county, and his name is still associated with one of the distinctive country places of the county. In 1897 he retired from the steady pursuits of the farm, and has since resided in a fine home at 311 South Marshall avenue. He still has his farm and other interests to employ his time, and as a good citizen takes considerable part in local politics. For about half a century his influence has been on the side of progress and worthy achievement in his own community, and honor and esteem have accompanied his advance to the age of threescore and ten. In politics he is a Republican

Mr. Hunt was married first, January 14, 1862, to Miss Harriett E. Earl. Mrs. Hunt was born in Columbiana county, Ohio. Four of their children died, and the two now living are: Elmer, one of Eckford township's able farmers; and Earl, of Tekonsha township. Mr. Hunt married second, February 3, 1898.

JAMES R. HAUGHEY. It is to such safe, sane and conservative business men as James R. Haughey, junior member of Stephens and Haughey Real Estate and Loan Company, of Battle Creek, that Calhoun county owes its present prosperous condition. Those whose only interest in business lies in looking after personal gains do little or nothing to advance their communities, but the men who have the welfare of their sections at heart so conduct their operations as to build up and develop the resources of the country, thus opening up new avenues for the prosecution of undertakings that will bring out the best resources of the localities in which they live. Having all the essential qualities of a useful and successful business man, quick to perceive, ready to act, Mr. Haughey

Hosted by Google

meets minor business questions with great ease, while, careful to act rightly, larger matters are the subject of full consideration, and it is this careful consideration that has made him a safe and important factor in developing his community's interests. Mr. Haughey was born in Bowersville, Green county, Ohio, June 25, 1859, and is a son of John Quincy Adams and Lavina (Paulin) Haughey.

John Q. A. Haughey was born at Bowersville, Ohio, and in early manhood engaged in agricultural pursuits, carrying on general farming and devoting much attention to stock raising. During the Civil war he conducted a cold storage plant at Cincinnati, at a time when meat and produce were bringing exorbitant prices. He moved to Michigan about 1872 or 1873 and settled on six acres of land known as the old Elder White place, adjoining the sanitarium, this being platted off by Mr. Haughey into lots and sold. Subsequently he engaged in seat manufacturing and built the old factory standing on the corner of Tompkins and Champion streets. His real home when he first came to Battle Creek was what is now the Old Peoples' Home, of the Adventist society. It is located on Aldrich street, and this he sold. Finally he made an exchange of some property in Battle Creek for 380 acres of land at Assyria, Barry county, and there he died two years later, July 1, 1909, at the age of eighty years, three months and seventeen days. His widow still survives and makes her home on the old McCardle farm, three and one-half miles northeast of Battle Creek. She was born three miles north of Jamestown, Green county, Ohio. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Haughey: Alonzo Alfred, a well-educated man and stockraiser by occupation, who resides with his mother; David Paulin, deceased, who lived for some years at Bowersville, Ohio; Prof. Joseph H., a graduate of the Seventh Day Adventist College of Battle Creek; and now connected with the college of the same faith at Berrien Springs, Michigan; and James R.

James R. Haughey received his education in the college of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Battle Creek, and as a young man engaged in contracting and building, and for nine months was foreman at Phelps Sanitarium. At one time he owned fifteen houses in Battle Creek, but these have all been sold, and now, as a partner of Mr. Stephens, with whom he has been associated since December, 1911, he has carried on extensive operations. Property is bought and sold, money loaned, houses rented and rents collected, a general collection agency operated, pension vouchers executed, and lands handled in Oklahoma, the Dakotas and Alberta. The well-equipped offices are situated at No. 24 Main street, East, where the partners treat their many clients with the utmost courtesy and consideration. Mr. Haughey is considerate and broad in his judgment of general business conditions and tendencies and a most certain and intuitive judge of the character of men.

On June 24, 1883, Mr. Haughey was married to Miss Sue Alice Smith, who was born at Oakland, Coles county, Illinois, and they have had three sons and three daughters, as follows: Arthur R., of Chicago; Hazel E., now Mrs. Daniel Hickey, of Battle Creek; Ruby Alice, now Mrs. S. E. Gross, wife of the famous founder of Gross Park and other suburbs of Chicago, and millionaire builder of more than 3,000 houses, who is now residing in Battle Creek; Myrtle Alice, who is attending school; and Norman Ryder and Milburn Mathias, at home. These children were all born in Battle Creek with the exception of Myrtle, who was born in Assyria, Barry county; and Norman, who was born three miles west of Battle Creek, in Bedford township. The daughters are very talented musicians, and their mother possesses one of the most artistic voices in the city. The family home is at No. 39 Hill street.

Hosted by Google

JOHN J. WALBRIDGE. A former resident of Battle Creek, who is still well remembered by many of this city's old-time business men, was the late John J. Walbridge, whose death occurred April 28, 1889, and whose widow, a lady of eighty-two years, resides at No. 79 Maple street. Mr. Walbridge was born in Orleans county, New York, May 4, 1826, and was a son of John J. Walbridge, who was born in Vermont in 1778 and served as a member of the State Legislature there at the time Seward was governor of the state. He died in Orleans county in 1841. His wife was Caroline M. Collins, and they had but one child, John J. Jr., and the mother passed away in Battle Creek, Michigan, November 4, 1888.

John J. Walbridge was educated in the public schools of Orleans county, New York, and on coming to Michigan settled first at Lowell, where he established himself in business. In the fall of 1865, after nearly a year spent in the commissary department at Chattanooga, Tennessee, during the Civil war, Mr. Walbridge came to Battle Creek, and from that time to within a year of his death he was engaged in traveling for a Chicago wholesale grocery. His father was a strong Whig, but Mr. Walbridge adopted the principles of the Democratic party, and supported its candidates throughout his life. While a resident of the East, he belonged to the Odd Fellows.

Mr. Walbridge was married April 16, 1850, at Gaines, Orleans county, New York, to Miss Martha Moss, who was born October 5, 1831, in Genesee county, New York, daughter of Samuel and Mercy (Sherman) Moss. She was educated at Albion Seminary and Mount Holyoke College. There were two children in the family: Fred J., born July 4, 1851, in Gaines, Orleans county, New York, and now manager of the account department of the Nichols & Shepard Company, with which firm he has been connected forty years; and Henry Clay, born September 8, 1853, in Gaines, and for twenty years a resident of Chicago, Illinois, where he is employed in the grocery department of Siegel, Cooper & Company. Mrs. Walbridge is a member of the First Presbyterian Church, but attends St. Thomas' Episcopal Church on account of its convenient situation, it being just across the street from Mrs. Walbridge's residence, which is located at No. 79 Maple street. Here she has resided only eight years, the home being that of her sister, Mrs. Thomas, and is an old city landmark, being located on the two cornered lot across from the Public Library, at Maple, West Van Buren and Adams streets.

Mrs. Walbridge has passed her eightieth year, but is still in full possession of all of her faculties, and looks like a woman of twenty years younger. An interesting conversationalist, she recalls many incidents of pioneer days in Battle Creek, and her reminiscences are instructive and of much historical value. She has a handsome collection of old dishes, many of which were presented to her by her numerous warm friends in Battle Creek. Kind hearted and charitable and possessed of a lovable nature, she has made many friends in Battle Creek, who have been drawn about her by her many fine qualities of mind and heart.

ROBERT MOSS WALBRIDGE, son of Henry Clay Walbridge, of Chicago, Illinois, was born October 13, 1876, in what was then Lakeport, Bonhomme county, Dakota Territory, but is now Yankton county, South Dakota. Since he has been two years of age, however, he has resided at the home of his grandmother in Battle Creek, in which city he is well known in business circles as manager of the Battle Creek office of the Western Union Telegraph Company. Henry Clay Walbridge,

Hosted by Google

who is connected with the grocery department of Siegel, Cooper & Company's big store in Chicago, was born in Lockport, New York, and his wife, who bore the maiden name of Celia Smolik, and who also resides in Chicago, was born at Radnitz, thirteen miles from Prague, in Bohemia.

Robert Moss Walbridge was educated in the public schools of Battle Creek, and then learned the trade of telegrapher, working for one year in the offices of the Postal Telegraph Company. In 1894 he entered the employ of Nichols & Shepard Company, with which concern he was connected for about ten years in the collection department, but since March, 1907, has had charge of the offices of the Western Union Telegraph Company. He is recognized as a business man of much natural ability and capacity, and as a citizen who has the public welfare at heart. Under his efficient management the company's lines are giving excellent service and the business of the concern has increased commensurately. Fraternally, Mr. Walbridge is connected with the Knights of Pythias, and he and Mrs. Walbridge are members of the Episcopal Church and attend with St. Thomas' congregation. He is a great reader and a lover of books, being intensely interested in everything pertaining to nature and history. His numerous friends testify to his popularity, and he belongs to that type of men representative of Battle Creek's best citizenship.

Mr. Walbridge was married February 1, 1908, to Miss Margaret Helen Hartley, who was born in Binghamton, New York, and educated there. They have two children: Caroline Hartley and Margaret Elizabeth, both born in Battle Creek. The family residence is at No. 79 Maple street.

FRANK E. SMITH. Working for other persons in various occupations until he was able to do something on his own account, and since then and before taking an active part in public local affairs in several different public offices of his township; giving faithful and intelligent attention to church duties, political requirements and the interests of one good fraternity; manifesting always an earnest, practical and serviceable interest in the progress and further development of his locality and the welfare of its people, Frank E. Smith, one of the enterprising and progressive farmers of Marengo township, Calhoun county, has pursued the ordinary course of sturdy American manhood, and made his mark on the section in which he lives. Mr. Smith is a native of Northampton county, Pennsylvania, where he was born on November 1, 1856. His parents, Benjamin F. and Susan (Spangenberg) Smith, are also natives of Pennsylvania, the former born on July 15, 1830, and the latter on October 21, 1836. Both are still living and have their home in Marengo township not far from where their son resides. Four children were born of their union: Frank E., the interesting subject of this review; D. S., who is serving the government as a rural mail carrier from Marshall; John R., who is engaged in the same occupation as his brother D. S., and a fourth child who died in infancy.

The father came to Michigan in 1884 with his wife but the children had preceded them, having come here in 1880, and located first in Eckford township, where he followed farming for a time, then moved to Marengo township, and here he and the mother have lived ever since. As a young man he worked at the carpenter trade, but after his arrival in this state he became a farmer, and this line of endeavor occupied his attention until his retirement from active work a few years ago, about 1908. In politics he is a Republican, but he has been much more deeply interested in church work than political affairs, although never

Hosted by Google

neglecting a good citizen's duty in connection with matters of public interest. He has long been a leading member of the Methodist Episcopal church and a very active church worker, serving as steward and class leader of the congregation to which he belongs for many years. The mother is also a member of that church.

Frank E. Smith's grandparents on his father's side were Ludwig and Catherine (Groob) Smith, both Pennsylvanians also by nativity and lifelong residence, and both nearly eighty years of age when they died. In his young manhood the grandfather was a school teacher, but he too later became a farmer and made that his employment for the rest of his life. The maternal grandfather was Daniel Spangenburg. The former was born and passed the whole of his life in New Jersey, where he was a farmer from his youth to the end of his earthly career. He chose farming as his life work and after tilling the soil for a few years in Pennsylvania, came to Michigan, arriving in the year 1880. In 1883 he bought the old Rogers homestead of ninety-five acres, which is one of the best farms in Marengo township, and is well improved with good buildings of every kind necessary for its purposes. On this farm Mr. Smith erected all the barns and smaller structures and made many other improvements, converting it into a beautiful rural home. He does general farming, and at one time for some years he also raised thoroughbred sheep of superior strains, but he has not been engaged in any live stock business for some time except what has been necessary for his farming operations and incidental to them from year to year.

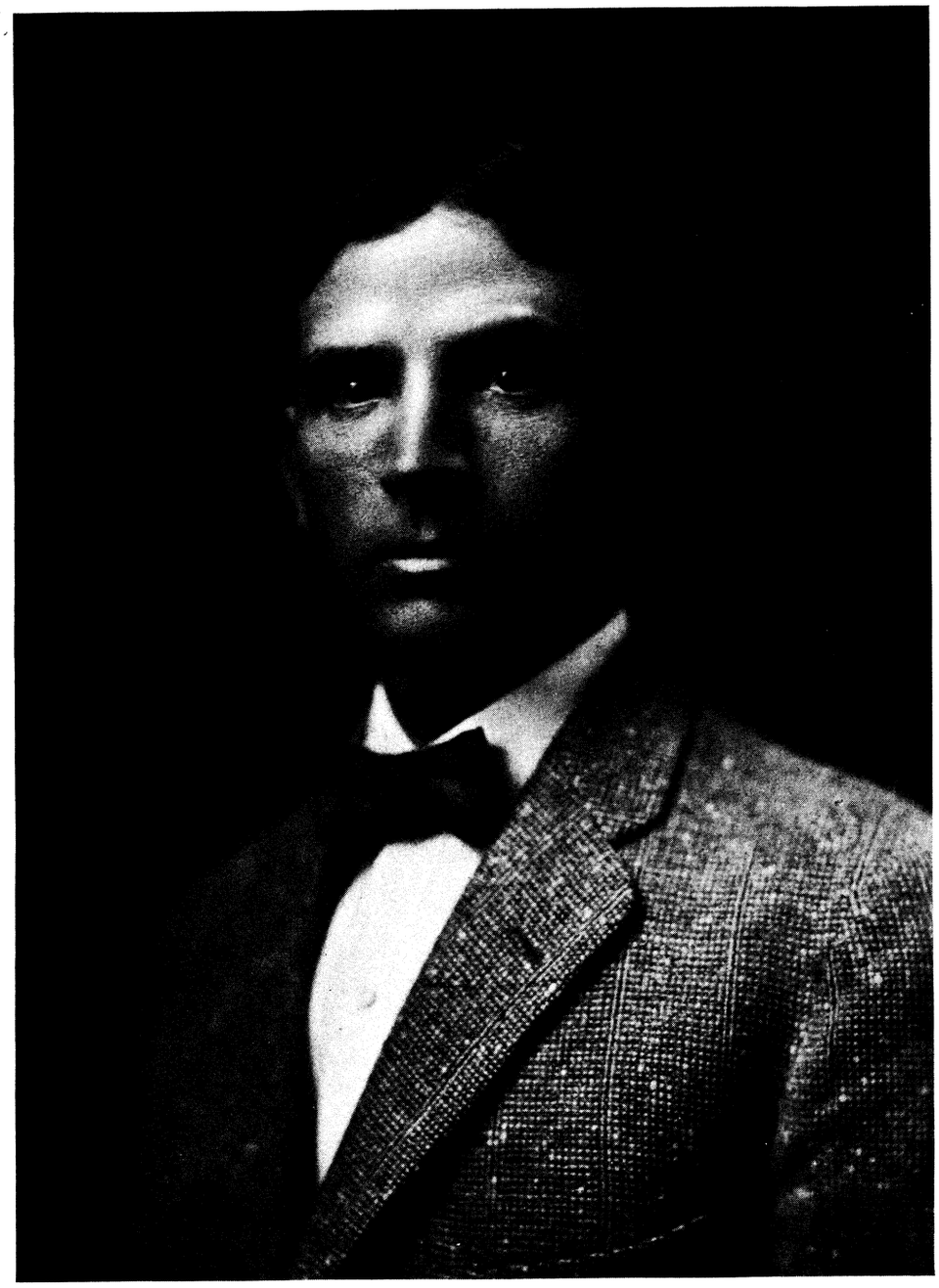
Mr. Smith was married on January 24th, 1883, to Miss Nettie F. Rogers, a daughter of Isaac and Margaret (Travers) Rogers. The mother died in 1875 at the age of 56 years, and the father in 1888, aged 75. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have two children: Margaret S. and Arthur R. Both are highly esteemed and prominent in its social life and other activities.

In his political relations Mr. Smith is connected with the Republican party and belongs to the progressive wing of the organization. He served as township clerk one year, and has been filling with credit to himself and benefit to the township the office of supervisor. In religious affiliation he is a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and has been steward and Sunday school superintendent of the congregation to which he and his wife belong. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Order of Gleaners, and in this fraternity he also takes a cordial and helpful interest. He is thoroughly progressive and enterprising in his own affairs and displays the same qualities in reference to the affairs of his township and county, being always ready to aid in promoting their improvement along all lines of wholesome and enduring advancement, intelligently desirous of promoting the welfare of their residents in every way and sparing no effort on his part to accomplish the utmost good for the people around him.

JAMES W. PERRY, a veteran of the Civil war, may be found a resident on his estate of one hundred and seven acres in Pennfield township, Calhoun county, Michigan, in which location he has made his home for the most part since 1855, which year marked the advent of the Perry family into Michigan. He was born in Ireland, October 14, 1840, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Brown) Perry, both of whom were born and reared in the north of Ireland, where their marriage was solemnized. They came to America in 1841, when the subject of this review was an infant of one year, and located in Canada, where they made their home until 1855. In that year they made their way to Michigan and William Perry purchased a farm in Pennfield

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



O. L. Carpenning.

Hosted by Google

township which he cleared and cultivated and on which he maintained his home until his death, which occurred on March 17, 1897, when he was eighty-nine years of age His devoted wife survived him until 1906, passing away at the patriarchal age of one hundred and four years. William Perry was a Republican in his political adherence after becoming a citizen of the United States, and the years of his life in Michigan brought him a pleasing degree of prosperity as a farmer and business man.

James W. Perry was primarily educated in the public schools of Canada and later attended the schools of Calhoun county. When the dark cloud of Civil war darkened the national horizon he made manifest his inherent loyalty to the cause of the Union by enlisting as a soldier in a Michigan company, under General Fremont. After he was dismissed from the army, his regiment became known as the Sixty-Sixth Illinois Western Sharpshooters. Mr. Perry participated in a number of important engagements during the progress of the war, including the battles at Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh and Atlanta, at which latter place he received his honorable discharge. On his return to Michigan Mr. Perry purchased the old homestead farm on which he has since resided. He has devoted himself to diversified agriculture during the long intervening years to the present time, and in these lines of enterprise has enjoyed success. In his political attitude, he is an independent, preferring to support men and measures meeting with the approval of his careful judgment rather than to vote along strictly partisan lines.

In 1865 Mr. Perry was united in marriage to Miss Electa Bayles, a daughter of William Bayles, who was born and reared in the state of New York, from whence he came to Michigan in 1857. He settled at Hastings and there resided until he entered the army for service in the First Michigan Engineers and Mechanics. He was a member of the Union forces for a period of three years, and then returned to Michigan. Subsequently he went west and he died at Leavenworth, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Perry have three children, concerning whom the following brief data is here entered: Frank is engaged in the transfer business at Battle Creek; Guy is likewise a resident of Battle Creek and devotes his attention to the automobile business; and Blanche, who is the wife of William Bloom, resides at the parental home. With reference to the religious affiliations of the Perry family, they are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. .

Mr. Perry has lived a life of usefulness such as few men know or realize. God-fearing, law-abiding, progressive, his life is as truly that of a Christian gentleman as a man's can well be, and throughout his life he has unwaveringly clung to the right as he has interpreted it.

CLIFTON L. CORPENING. As manager and lessee of the Post Tavern, Clifton L. Corpening has a very responsible part in maintaining and extending the reputation of one of the chief cities of southern Michigan. The Post Tavern, which was constructed over ten years ago by Mr. C. W. Post, is a hotel with a reputation far beyond that of the usual commercial hotel in cities much larger the Battle Creek. It has all the facilities, comforts and luxuries offered by the high-class American hostelry, and during the year 1912 a ten story annex is being erected, which is to be not only the loftiest building in this part of Michigan, but will make the Tavern one of the finest hotel structures in the country. Constructed in the main to match the present Tavern, the annex will represent the latest ideas in hotel architecture and

Hosted by Google

equipment. An overhead bridge corridor will connect the Tavern with the Post building on the opposite side of the street, and with other building construction and improvements soon to be made by Mr. Post in this immediate vicinity, this section of the city will be completely changed.

Twenty years of experience in the hotel business equipped Mr. Corpening for the important task of supervising the Tavern. A native of North Carolina, born at Statesville, December 5, 1873, he was the son of Dr. Thomas J. and Susan (Boyd) Corpening, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of South Carolina. The father, who was a dentist by profession, died in 1891 at Morganton, North Carolina, where he practiced during the court sessions, though his regular residence was at Statesville. In the latter city the mother died in 1900. There were eleven children in the family, three of whom died in infancy, and the five sons and three daughters now living are as follows: Thomas B., of St. Louis; R. I., of Dallas, Texas; Clifton L.; Arthur G., of Rockingham, North Carolina; Edmund O., of Dallas, Mrs. D. M. Furches, of Statesville, the widow of the late distinguished jurist D. M. Furches, who was an associate justice of the North Carolina supreme court and ten years before his death was appointed chief justice; Miss Lelia, of Rockingham, North Carolina; Miss Julia Altona, of Statesville.

Mr. Corpening received his early education in the Male Academy at Statesville, but since his father's death in 1891 he has been continuously identified with the hotel business. And few of the American hotel men have made a better record of progress and success than he. Beginning as clerk, he was connected with hotels in Statesville and Durham, North Carolina, at Omaha and Council Bluffs, and with the opening of the Post Tavern on January 1, 1901, became chief clerk. On January 1, 1910, he leased the Tavern and has since been its active manager. The success of this enterprise has devolved upon him more than any other individual, for he has been intimately associated with the patronage upon which every hotel depends, and he has supervised and maintained a service that has given the best satisfaction. The Tavern now has one hundred and twenty guest rooms, and with the completion of the annex will have eighty more. It is conducted on the American plan, and the rates are three to four dollars a day.

Mr. Corpening is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias lodge, and the Athelstan and Country clubs. He is one of the leading members of the St. Thomas Episcopal church, being treasurer and a vestryman, and is also a member of the music and finance committees. On April 29, 1908, he was married to Miss Bertha L. Wheaton, of Battle Creek. Her father is Charles Wheaton, now a resident of Cleveland, Ohio; her mother died when the daughter was three years old. Mrs. Corpening was born at Mancelona, Michigan, was educated there and in the Business College at Battle Creek, and for eleven years before her marriage was bookkeeper for the Ellis Publishing Company of this city, and for the past six years has been vice president of that company. Mr. and Mrs. Corpening make their home in the Tavern.

ADELBERT JEFFERSON MURRAY. The Murray family is one of the oldest and most prominent in the history of Calhoun county, having been identified with this portion of the state of Michigan for more than seventy years. Its early members bore their part in the pioneer development, and all have occupied places of distinctive worth and honor as citizens.

The representative of this family above named is a native son of Calhoun county. His long continued work as a farmer, his well known position in business and his prominence in public affairs are such that

Hosted by Google

no introduction is required for the better acquaintance of this citizen. He was born in Lee township, August 15, 1846, a son of Arunah and Susan (Saunders) Murray, the former a native of the town of Pawlet, Rutland county, Vermont. The paternal grandfather, David W. Murray was a farmer and wool and cloth dresser in Vermont, whence he removed his family to Sedina, Genesee county, New York. His name belongs among the Calhoun county early settlers, for he came out to this state in 1840, and after four years' residence in Marengo township settled on section 13, Lee township, which continued his home until his death at the age of seventy-five.

Arunah Murray, the father, was one of the interesting and enterprising old settlers of Calhoun county. His early boyhood was spent near the Erie Canal, which was then at the height of its prosperity, and he began his career as a tow-boy, which later brought him to the position of boat captain. During the winters he worked in the lumber woods. While a resident of New York he married a native of Sedina, Miss Susan Saunders. Her father, Benjamin Saunders, a New York farmer, was also a settler in Eckford township, Calhoun county, where he spent the latter years of his life. Susan Saunders' grandfather, Matthew Bond, during the war of 1812, had been captured by the Indians, who held him prisoner a number of months and tortured him by burning his feet.

Arunah Murray and wife in 1840 made their journey to Calhoun county in a wagon, and after six weeks of travel arrived at Marengo, which was their first home. They soon afterward packed their goods and drove on to northwestern Illinois, but were discouraged from making a home there and returned the same winter to Calhoun county. In 1844 they bought forty acres on section 12, and with the pioneer axe and plow laid the forest and disclosed the soil for cultivation. Having traded this land in 1854 for eighty acres, he once more applied himself to the labor of developing a homestead from the wilderness. This was the homestead where he and his wife spent their last years, and was one of the fine farms and country homes of Lee township. His wife died there December 2, 1890, and he passed away August 13, 1897. He had been treasurer of the county, and was otherwise active in citizenship and business.

Adelbert Jefferson Murray, who was one of a family of five sons and three daughters, spent his boyhood in the Calhoun county of fifty and sixty years ago, when the Indians were still here along with the deer and wolves. Free schools were not yet established, so he got most of his education in the subscription schools. His practical career began early. At the age of eleven he was hauling lumber and staves to Marshall and elsewhere. On leaving the home farm at the age of twenty he was engaged in carpenter work for a time, after which he bought forty acres of heavily timbered land, and like his father developed a farm out of the wilderness. To add to his income he employed the off seasons in chopping wood and stave bolts. His wedded life was begun on this farm, and with increasing prosperity he became the owner of about two hundred acres in Lee township. As a farmstead of Calhoun county, his place has long borne a fine reputation for improvement and productivity. Stock raising was one of the industries which he followed with success. In April, 1912, Mr. Murray removed to Marshall, where he resides in a comfortable home on East Mansion street.

November 17, 1869, Mr. Murray was married to Miss Mary Lewis, and to their happy union six children have been born. Milton L. is a prosperous farmer in Lee township; Milo C. is principal of the Michigan City public schools; Arthur O. lives in Marshall; Jessie, at home,

Hosted by Google

is a graduate of the Valparaiso University; Clyde E. manages the old homestead; and Bessie is the wife of Burt Oxby, of Lee township.

Mrs. Murray, who was one of a family of twelve children, was born at Lorain, Ohio, July 10, 1851. Her parents were both natives of New York, and in 1858 moved to Calhoun county, where they spent the rest of their lives on a farm in Lee township. The mother died in 1867 and the father in 1881.

Mr. Murray has not confined his efforts to the routine duties of the farm. Farming and stock raising with him were a highly developed and successful business, and the same qualities which he used in those lines were applied to other affairs and to public life. He has been connected with public affairs of township and county for many years. He became pathmaster in his township at the age of twenty-one and held the office nine years. He was highway commissioner seven years, township treasurer two years, and an official of the schools for nearly forty years. He has also served as supervisor, and has been chairman of the Democratic central committee. He is a Mason and has long been identified with the Patrons of Husbandry. He has been a member of the Citizens Mutual Fire Insurance Company thirty-two years, and for twelve years has been secretary of that important local enterprise. He is a director and local representative of the Hastings City Fire Insurance Company, and likewise represents the Lansing Hail Company. Mr. Murray is also a member of the Calhoun Agricultural Society. He is a citizen of broad interests and activities, and his efforts and influence have for many years been exerted for the advancement and material and civic welfare of his home and native community.

LOUIS E. GARDNER, the oldest grocer of Battle Creek, whose business has been developed from a humble beginning nearly a quarter of a century ago to one of the leading establishments of its kind in the city, is known as one of the leading business citizens of his adopted city. He belongs to that class of men who have been the architects of their own fortunes, having started in life with little save energy, determination and inherent ability, and the position he has gained in business circles has come as a reward of long years of persevering effort. Mr. Gardner was born at Hubbardstown, Ionia county, Michigan, August 28, 1862, and is a son of Robert and Eliza (Chick) Gardner, natives of England. They were married in their native country, where their oldest child was born, and came to the United States during the early 'fifties, locating first in New York state, where Mr. Gardner was employed in the Schenectady Locomotive Works for a short period. He was a wagon maker by trade, and on coming to Hubbardstown, Michigan, opened an establishment for the manufacture of vehicles, in which he was engaged for nearly half a century. Both he and his wife died at Hubbardstown, where they are buried. They had a family of thirteen children, of whom all except two lived to grow to maturity, and the following are living today: Charles, who is engaged in wagon making at Muir, Michigan; Charlotte, who married H. E. Jackson, a resident of Florida; A. W., living in Hubbardstown; John T., a druggist of Cass Lake, Minnesota; Louis E.; Mrs. H. A. Sessions, of Traverse City, Michigan; Mrs. C. W. Mack, of Hannibal, Missouri; Mrs. George Demming, of Rochester, New York; and Robert, engaged in the grocery business at No. 547 Maple street, Battle Creek.

Louis E. Gardner received his education in the Hubbardstown public schools, and began his business career as a clerk in the general store of L. W. Robinson, who later came to Battle Creek and now has a large dry goods store in the Post building. After spending seven years in

Hosted by Google

the employ of Mr. Robinson, Mr. Gardner embarked in business on his own account, and for three years was proprietor of a grocery business at Hubbardstown. In 1889 he came to Battle Creek and bought out the business of N. E. Retallide, who also has a sketch in this work. At the start, Frank A. Harris was Mr. Gardner's partner, the firm being known as Gardner & Harris, but after one year Mr. Gardner bought out Mr. Harris' interest in the business. Fifteen minutes after the deal had been consummated, Mr. Harris started home for his supper, and when crossing the Grand Trunk Railroad tracks, located within a short distance of the store, he was struck by a train and killed. Mr. Gardner has been engaged in business alone in his present building, No. 247 Main street, East, to the present time, and carries a complete line of fancy and staple groceries. Many groceries have changed hands during the twenty-two years since Mr. Gardner's arrival, a large number of them having proved unprofitable, but Mr. Gardner's business has prospered and shown a steady growth, and he now controls one of the finest trades in the city. Good business judgment, fair and honorable dealing and progressive methods have served to make his establishment popular with the buying public, while his courteous and genial personality has made friends of his customers. He is a valued member of Lodge No. 35, Knights of Pythias, of Battle Creek.

On October 2, 1883, Mr. Gardner was married in Sanilac county, Michigan, to Miss Ida Lena Hinkson, who was born and reared in that county, daughter of Charles J. and Eliabeth Hinkson. Her father, who was engaged in agricultural pursuits for a number of years, died in 1910, while her mother is still living and makes her home at Port Huron, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Gardner have one daughter living: Ida Lucille, who was born in Hubbardstown, Michigan, and educated in Battle Creek, graduating from the high school in the class of 1906 and subsequently attending Kalamazoo Seminary for a short time. A son, Charles Bruce, was born in Hubbardstown, Michigan, and died there at the age of six months.

The family residence is situated at No. 364 East Main street. Although Mr. Gardner is a very busy man, he finds time for recreation, his chief pleasure being found in automobiling. He owns a large modern touring car, and during the summer of 1912 made an extended trip through the east, visiting the home of his sister, Mrs. Demming, in Rochester, New York. Both he and Mrs. Gardner have numerous friends in Battle Creek, drawn about them by their many admirable qualities of mind and heart.

CHARLES J. PRYER. One of the oldest and best known native citizens of Marshall is Mr. Charles J. Pryer, who was reared and educated in this city, went from here into the service of the Union army, then returned and for upwards of half a century has been identified with the teaming and transfer business.

During the pioneer period of Marshall's corporate existence he was born in one of the homes of this village, on November 13, 1845, the oldest son of James and Mary (Wetherly) Pryer. The parents, who were natives of England, were married in Calhoun county after their families had separately migrated to this country. James Pryer, the father, was a brick and stone mason, and gave many years of an industrious life to that calling. Both he and his wife died in Marshall.

As the oldest of the family, Charles J. had to begin the practical work of life before his education was carried to completion. The local public schools gave him most of his training, including a short time spent in the high school, and after leaving school he worked as a farm hand.

Hosted by Google

He volunteered and became a member of Company E of the Sixth Michigan Heavy Artillery. This was Colonel Bacon's regiment. With this regiment he went to New Orleans, thence to Port Hudson and Vicksburg, from there up White river to Little Rock and to Duval's Bluff, participated in the skirmish at Fort Gaines, was engaged in the siege of Fort Morgan on Mobile Bay and was present at the capture of the city of Mobile, where the 15-inch mortars were used in the reduction of the city, and adjacent fortifications. His honorable discharge was obtained at New Orleans, August 20, 1865, and he then came up the Mississippi and returned to Marshall as one of the honored veterans of the great war. During the many subsequent years of civilian pursuits, he has built up a thriving business, and has used several teams and wagons to handle the traffic.

Mr. Pryer is a member of the C. Colegrove Post, No. 166, G. A. R. His home for many years has been at 317 South Marshall avenue. He was married in 1870 to Miss Emaline Saunders, whose parents, Stephen and Jane Saunders, came from England and were early settlers of Calhoun county, where Mrs. Pryer, like her husband, has spent practically all her life. Mr. and Mrs. Pryer are the parents of two children. Charles A. is a carpenter and builder in Marshall, and Etta May is the wife of E. G. Bangham. There is one granddaughter, named Fern.

WILLIAM GLAU has spent the main portion of his life within the confines of Calhoun county; and the state of Michigan, and particularly the county of Calhoun, knows no more loyal citizen than he. He is one of the successful farmers of Newton township where he resides, and although no longer a young man takes an active part, not only in the work of the farm, but also in the public affairs of the community, putting some of the younger men to shame by his activity and energy. However, William Glau has German blood in his veins, and this accounts somewhat for many of the strong traits of his character, for no better blood has ever been brought into this country than that of our Teutonic brethren, and it is to be sincerely hoped that those of the future generation who can boast German ancestors will cling to their heritage and never forget that the German race stands for the highest in morals and in intellect.

William Glau, the eldest son of his father, Dedloff Glau, was born in Holstein, Germany, on the 14th of January, 1851. His father was also a native of Holstein, Germany, and his mother was Amanda Bach of that place. Dedloff Glau was a farmer in the Fatherland, but his peaceful agricultural life was interrupted by war, and he was called upon to serve his country. For six years he was a soldier in the German army, and took an active part in all the campaigns during the war with Denmark. He finally determined to come to America. Upon his arrival in New York he came across country to Sioux City, Iowa, near which place he settled down as a farmer. Here he spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1906, two years after the death of his good wife. In his political views Mr. Glau was a Democrat, and both he and his wife were members of the Lutheran church. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Glau, as follows: William; Henry; John, who is deceased; Chris, a farmer in Iowa; Julius, also a farmer in Iowa; Edward, located at Charter Oak, Iowa; Dedloff, also located in Iowa, where he has a farm near Sioux City; Lena, who is Mrs. Rosenaff and lives in Virginia; and Bertha, the only one of the family to remain in Germany, is the wife of George Urbann.

William Glau came to America before any of his family, and it was his enthusiastic reports of the New World that brought the others. He first located in Toledo, Ohio, and secured work on the railroad known as

Hosted by Google

the Toledo, Wabash & Western, and remained in the employ of that company for two years. He then came to Newton township, Michigan, and located on a farm, not far from the one he owns at present. This farm consisted of eighty acres, and he succeeded in raising good crops and was soon accounted one of the prosperous men of the community. After the death of his first wife, to whom he was deeply devoted, he sold this farm where they had spent the happy years of their wedded life, and bought his present place of forty-five acres near his old home.

William Glau was married the year after he came to America that is, in 1874, and his wife was Elizabeth Damon, who was born in Paris, France, on the 14th of November, 1849. She came to America with her parents, Nicholas and Elizabeth (Scheiferstein) Damon, in 1873. They located at Newton and both the parents are now dead. Four children were born of this marriage: Willard, now living in Sioux City, Iowa; Frances, who married William Laupp and lives in Newton township; John and Edward who live in East Leroy and who are mentioned at greater length elsewhere in this work. Elizabeth Damon Glau died on the 24th of July, 1893. After an interval of several years Mr. Glau married Mary Madt of Toledo, whom he had known as a child. She died on the 10th day of December, 1909, leaving no children.

Mr. Glau is a Democrat, and he has had an active share in the affairs of the party in his community, at one time holding the responsible post of overseer of highways for Newton townships. He is a member of the Lutheran church, the faith of his fathers.

LUTHER H. HOLTON. Of the old and well remembered merchants of Battle Creek, one of the most prominent was the late Luther H. Holton, who was a druggist of this city for thirty years. A successful business man, he displayed much public spirit in the civic affairs, was a kindly and highly esteemed associate and friend. His death, which occurred March 23, 1889, closed a career of substantial achievement and good citizenship.

Mr. Holton was fifty-eight years old at the time of his death. He was born in Yates county, New York, July 12, 1831. In 1855, at the age of twenty-four, he came to this city, and four years later established himself independently in the drug business. In 1869 his brother, Samuel M., now a retired citizen of Battle Creek, became associated with him in the firm of Holton Brothers, of which he was president at the time of his death. Their store was located on East Main street in the place now occupied by the American Express Company.

The late Mr. Holton was devoted to the work of his church, the Independent Congregational of this city, and was a member and official for many years. In politics he was a Republican. The responsibilities that fell to his lot he carried with fidelity, and his life record was honorable. In 1878, at 243 Maple street, the corner of Chestnut, he erected the residence which was his own home for eleven years, and where his wife and daughter have ever since lived. He was married on the 6th of September, 1876, at Bennington, Vermont, to Miss Electa C. Boardman. Mrs. Holton, who was a daughter of George and Caroline (Stark) Boardman, was born in Vermont at one of the historic localities of that state, and received her education and lived there up to the time of her marriage. Her daughter, Adelaide C. Holton, who is a native of Battle Creek, graduated from the Battle Creek high school and then attended the well known woman's college, Wells College at Aurora, New York.

Mr. Holton was married twice, first to Miss Sophia Packer of Vermont. One child of this union was born but died in infancy. They were

Hosted by Google

married in January 1861. She died in 1868 and was buried in Battle Creek.

SAMUEL M. HOLTON, M. D. One of Battle Creek's well known retired citizens, Samuel M. Holton, of No. 141 North avenue, who for nearly a quarter of a century was engaged in the drug business in this city, and an honored veteran of the great Civil War, was born February 22, 1836, in Yates county, New York, a son of James and Rachel (Williams) Holton. Mr. Holton's grandfather was one of the first settlers of Western New York, and James Holton, his father was born in York county, Pennsylvania. He was married in Rushville, New York, to Rachel Williams, a native of Massachusetts, and they spent the remainder of their lives in that vicinity, Mr. Holton being engaged in agricultural pursuits. They had a family of six sons and three daughters, of whom Samuel M., is the only survivor.

Samuel M. Holton secured his education in the little red schoolhouse in the vicinity of his birthplace, subsequently attending Franklin Academy and Fort Plains Seminary. In 1857 he came to Battle Creek to study medicine with Dr. Cox, in whose offices he remained two years, and then went to Ann Arbor to attend a course of lectures. While he was there the Civil War broke out, and May 25, 1861, he enlisted for service in the Union army, becoming a member of Company C, Second Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, as a private. With this regiment he served four years and four months. On the organization of the regiment he was made corporal of his company, and on April 20, 1864, was made assistant surgeon, subsequently, March 11, 1865, receiving the promotion to the rank of surgeon and as such was mustered out and honorably discharged July 28, 1865. A younger brother, Charles M. Holton, came to Battle Creek and studied law for one year with L. H. Stewart, and on September 4, 1862, enlisted as sergeant of Company A, Seventh Michigan Cavalry, being made second lieutenant March 22, 1864, and first lieutenant May 24, 1865. He resigned June 23, 1865, and received his honorable discharge. His death occurred in the State of Washington in 1898, he being the owner of the *Yakima Republican,* at the home of his son, who died later, and both were brought back and buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Battle Creek.

After completing his services to his country, Samuel M. Holton returned to his medical studies, and received his degree at the University of Michigan. Shortly thereafter he came back to Battle Creek and with his brother, Luther H. Holton, embarked in the drug business under the firm name of Holton Brothers, an establishment being opened on West Main street, where the concern of Skinner & Titus is now situated, and later on East Main street, the present site of the American Express Company. This association continued until the death of Mr. Holton's brother, after which he was engaged in business alone in the Werstein Block for three years, making a period of twenty-four years that he was one of Battle Creek's leading pharmacists. For the past fifteen years he has led a retired life. Mr. Holton belongs to Metcalf Lodge, A. F. & A. M., being a charter member and past master, and is also post commander of Farragut Post, Grand Army of the Republic.

On November 17, 1867, Mr. Holton was married in Rushville, New York, to Miss Mary A. Chapman, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Chapman, farming people of near Rushville, where Mrs. Holton was reared and educated. Mr. and Mrs. Holton have one daughter: Florence J., who was born in Battle Creek and graduated from the high school, since which time she has been engaged in teaching in the public schools. She makes her home at the family residence, No. 141 North avenue.

Hosted by Google

WILLIAM W. WHITNEY. Standing prominent among the more enterprising and progressive agriculturists of Calhoun county, William W. Whitney owns and occupies a well-improved and well-managed estate near Battle Creek, where he carries on general farming after the most approved modern methods, in his undertakings meeting with highly satisfactory results. A son of N. S. and Mary (Pratt) Whitney, he was born, January 7, 1848, in Vermont. His grandfather, Cyrus Whitney, who was also a tiller of the soil, spent his entire life of ninety years in the Green Mountain state.

N. S. Whitney was born, in 1810, on a Vermont farm, and among the rugged hills of his native state grew to a sturdy manhood, for a number of years there working at the machinist's trade. In 1854, foreseeing the future development of the then western states, he came with his family to Michigan, and for eight years lived on rented land in Kalamazoo county. Although he was almost penniless when he located there, he was quite successful in his operations, and having accumulated some money he looked about for place in which to invest it, and having purchased one hundred and seventy-five acres in Calhoun county began the improvement of the homestead now owned and occupied by his son William, the subject of this sketch. He was a Republican in politics, and a citizen of worth, his death, in '76, being a loss to the community. He married Mary Pratt, whose father, Daniel Pratt, a life-long resident of Vermont, was engaged in seafaring pursuits as a young man, having been captain of a boat, but during the later years of his life was a farmer.

Having acquired a practical education in the common schools of Calhoun county, William W. Whitney was early initiated into the mysteries of agriculture, and at the death of his father succeeded to the ownership of the parental acres, to which he has since added eighty acres of land by purchase, his farm now containing two hundred and fifty-five acres of as fertile and fruitful land as can be found in this section of the county.

Mr. Whitney has been twice married, by his first marriage having three children, namely: Norman S., assisting in the management of the farm; DeForest, a machinist in Lansing; and Ruth, a bookeeper for the Battle Creek Paper Company, at Battle Creek. Mr. Whitney married second, in 1904, Mrs. Lina (Snyder) Cooley, a daughter of Levi Snyder, a farmer and carpenter in Barry county, Michigan. Mrs. Whitney is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Whitney is a Republican in politics, and belongs to the Knights of the Maccabees.

LEWIS M. SCHRODER. As president of the Schroder Brothers Company, dealers in dry goods, women's garments, millinery and draperies, at 33-35-37 Main Street, West, Lewis M. Schroder holds precedence as one of the most alert, progressive, popular business men of the city of Battle Creek, and while he has been indefatigable in furthering the upbuilding of the splendid enterprise of which he is the executive head, he has also stood exponent of loyal and public-spirited citizenship. To men of such character and ability is due the distinctive prestige held by the metropolis of Calhoun county as a trade center, and in the conducting of the extensive business of the company, which is incorporated under the laws of the state, his effective coadjutor and valued associate is his brother Sherman, who is secretary of the company and of whom specific mention is made on other pages of this work. The Schroder Brothers Company represents one of the most metropolitan mercantile establishment in Battle Creek, and its large and select stock in each department affords wide range of choice to the appreciative patrons of the concern. Fair and honorable dealings and

Hosted by Google

effective service have given this house high reputation, and its interested principals command unequivocal confidence and esteem in both business and social circles.

Lewis M. Schroder was born at Galesburg, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, on the 28th of January, 1861, and is a son of John and Mary (Bostwick) Schroder, the former of whom was born in Germany and the latter of whom was born near Galesburg, a member of one of the old and honored pioneer families of Kalamazoo county. John Schroder gained his rudimentary education in his native land and was a lad of twelve years at the time of the family immigration to America. He was reared to maturity in Galesburg, and it has been his to achieve large and worthy success as one of the world's productive workers. His marriage was solemnized at Galesburg, where he and his devoted wife still maintain their home, and he has long been numbered among the representative citizens of Kalamazoo county, where he is the owner of a large and valuable landed estate, consisting of several well improved farms, and he is also interested in one of the leading mercantile enterprises in his home village. He is a man of distinctive business acumen, of sterling character and of most genial personality, so that he holds impregnable vantage place in the esteem of the community which has long been his home. He has passed the psalmist's span of three score years and ten but is still active, with admirably preserved mental and physical powers. He accords unwavering allegiance to the Republican party and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist church. Of the three children the eldest is Lewis M., whose name initiates this review, and his business associate, Sherman, is the second son; Clarence, the youngest of the number still resides in Galesburg and is one of the successful and popular business men of that attractive village, where he has the management of the store established by his father, the latter still being identified with the business.

Lewis M. Schroeder was reared to adult age in his native town, to whose excellent public schools he is indebted for his early education. He early gained practical training in business, in the mercantile establishment of his honored father, and in 1886 he initiated his independent career by removing to Clyde, Cloud county, Kansas, where he successfully conducted a general merchandise business during the ensuing nine years, at the expiration of which he removed to Nevada, Vernon county, Missouri, where he was engaged in the dry goods business for six years. His brother Sherman became associated with him at Clyde and they have continuously maintained their effective alliance since that time, their relations having been always of the most harmonious order, as each has been deeply appreciative of the ability and earnest co-operation of the other. The title of Schroder Brothers Company was adopted while they were engaged in business in Kansas, and upon coming to Battle Creek, in October, 1900, they opened their dry goods store at their present location. They originally used but limited space and confined their attention exclusively to the handling of dry goods, but with the expansion of business other departments were added and the business quarters were amplified to the present large dimensions. At the start they utilized floor space of about eight thousand square feet, and the substantial growth of the enterprise is indicated when it is stated that more than fifteen thousand square feet of floor space are now demanded for the accommodation of the large and substantial business. Both the first and second floors of the building at the numbers indicated are now in commission, as is also the basement. The company carry a good, subsantial grade of stock in all lines and their large patronage, which may be said to be drawn from the "great

Hosted by Google

majority,'' stands as the tacit recognition and appreciation of effective service and fair and straightforward dealing. The concern has insistently kept faith with its patrons, and its advertising policy is broad and liberal. The Schroder brothers are among the most extensive newspaper advertisers in Battle Creek and the value of their advertising is enhanced by the fact that they have at no time or through no agency permitted no equivocal or exaggerated statements to appear in their public announcements. This has begotten popular confidence and support of the most insistent type, and thus has been built up an enterprise creditable alike to its promoters and to the city in which it is established.

The Schroder Brothers Company was incorporated in 1906, with a capital of sixty thousand dollars, and the stockholders and executive officers of the company comprise Lewis M. Schroder, president; Mrs. Elizabeth M. Schroder (wife of the president), vice-president; Sherman Schroder, secretary; and Mrs. Hattie M. Schroder, treasurer, the latter being the wife of Sherman Schroder.

Lewis M. Schroder is well fortified in his opinions concerning political tenets and policies and is a stalwart advocate of the principles of the Republican party, though in local affairs, where no issue is involved, he is not constrained by strict partisanship, as he gives his support to the men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment. He and his wife are most zealous and valued members of the First Presbyterian church in their home city and he has been an elder in the same for the past decade. He is a member of the board of directors of the Battle Creek Industrial Association and served as its president for two years. He is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and is a member of the Athelstan Club, the leading social organization of Battle Creek business and professional men.

On the 3d of November, 1887, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Schroder to Miss Elizabeth M. Malloch, who was one of his schoolmates at Galesburg in his boyhood days. Mrs. Schroder was born in the state of New York and was about seven years of age at the time of her parents' removal to Galesburg, Michigan. Later the family removed to Harvard, Nebraska, where she completed her education, and her parents were residents of Bellevue, Kansas, at the time of her marriage to Mr. Schroder. Her father, who devoted the major part of his active career to merchandising, died at Houston, Texas, in 1899, and her mother is now with her as a loved and gracious inmate of the home in Battle Creek. Mrs. Schroder is a member of the Woman's League and is active also in church work, besides being a popular factor in the representative social activities of her home city. Mr. and Mrs. Schroder have three children,—Lloyd J., who was born at Clyde, Kansas, and is now employed in the store of the Schroder Brothers Company; Keith M., who was born at Nevada, Missouri, and who is attending the public schools, as is also Ronald, who was born in Battle Creek. The respective dates of birth of the three fine sons are here entered: October 31, 1888; April 14, 1899; and April 18, 1902. The eldest son was graduated in the Battle Creek high school and also in the Michigan Business & Normal College, in this city. The attractive family home is at 122 Fremont street.

Apropos of the broad and effective advertising policy of the Schroder Brothers Company, it may be noted that in the spring of 1912 they made a most benignant and timely innovation, by the distribution of five thousand seedlings of catalpa among the school children of the city, the distribution being made on Arbor Day, in order that each pupil might have the opportunity of planting his own special

Hosted by Google

tree on that day, the district schools of the vicinity also being supplied. Concerning this interesting and worthy enterprise on the part of the Schroder Company the *Battle Creek Evening News* spoke, in part, as follows: "It is the intention to give every boy and girl in the grammar grades a seedling tree, to be planted and cared for until it is big enough to grow by its own hardihood. The Schroder Brothers Company has been planning this useful innovation in advertising for several months. The consent of the school board and its approval of the project have been secured, and distribution will be made through the principals of the schools. 'It is our thought that the planting of such trees will give new impetus to the nature study that is now being fostered in the schools', said Lewis M. Schroder. 'It should give to the children a continually increasing interest in the great outdoors. It may, in cases where such planting is possible, enlarge the field for school gardens.'"

SHERMAN SCHRODER. On other pages of this publication is entered a review of the career of Lewis M. Schroder, elder brother of the subject of this sketch and president of the Schroder Brothers Company, of which the latter is secretary. In the article to which reference is made is given adequate record concerning the fine business enterprise built up and controlled by the company, in the handling of dry goods, millinery, women's garments, etc., and also a brief review of the family history, so that it is not necessary to repeat the data in the present connection with the upbuilding of the business noted and has been associated with his brother since 1888, when they conducted business at Clyde, Kansas, as did they later in Nevada, Missouri, from which place they removed to Battle Creek and established their present extensive enterprise in October, 1900.

Sherman Schroder was born in the village of Galesburg, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, on the 10th of January, 1866, and to the public schools of his native place he is indebted for his early educational training. There he gained his initial business experience in the mercantile establishment of his father and later he held a clerkship, for one year, in the store of the old-time firm of Bruen & Skinner, in the city of Kalamazoo. In 1888 he became associated with his brother Lewis M. in the mercantile business at Clyde, Kansas, where operations were continued for nine years, at the expiration of which removal was made to Nevada, Missouri, which was the stage of the business activities of the brothers until they came to Battle Creek, in the year noted above. The brothers have been thus closely associated for nearly a quarter of a century, and both have gained high reputation and distinctive success as thorough, reliable and progressive business men,—citizens well worthy of the confidence and esteem in which they are uniformly held.

In his political proclivities Mr. Schroder is a staunch Republican, and he and his wife are specially active and valued members of the First Presbyterian church of Battle Creek, in which he is the zealous and popular assistant superintendent of the Sunday school at the time of this writing, in 1912. Mr. Schroder is affiliated with A. T. Metcalf Lodge, No. 419, Free & Accepted Masons; Battle Creek Chapter, No. 19, Royal Arch Masons; and Battle Creek Commandery, No. 19, Knights Templar, of which commandery he is past eminent commander, besides which he has passed various official chairs in the lodge and chapter. He is also past chancellor of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias and is a member of the building committee of the local Masonic Temple association. He is a popular member of the Athelstan Club and

Hosted by Google

the Gull Lake Country Club, and at the lake mentioned he has an attractive summer cottage.

On the 6th of September, 1893, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Schroder to Miss Hattie M. Coulter, of Iowa City, Iowa. She was born and reared at that place, the seat of the University of Iowa, in which institution she completed her education. She is a daughter of the late Dr. J. P. Coulter, who was one of the representative physicians and surgeons of Iowa City for many years prior to his death, his wife likewise having passed the closing years of her life in that city. Mrs. Schroder is prominently identified with the leading social activities of her home city and is a prominent member of the Woman's League. The family home, at 113 Frelinghuysen avenue, is a center of gracious hospitality. Mr. and Mrs. Schroder have two children, Mildred Maureen and Wayne Maurice. Miss Mildred Schroder is one of the most popular factors in the social and musical circles of her home city and is a specially talented musician. She was born at Clyde, Kansas, and was graduated in the Battle Creek Conservatory of Music when only fourteen years of age, the youngest person ever graduated in this excellent institution, whose director, Professor Barnes, pronounced her one of the most talented students ever graduated in the conservatory. As a pianist she is much in demand in concert work and public and private recitals in her home city. She is now a member of the class of 1913 in the Battle Creek high school. Wayne Maurice Schroder was born in Battle Creek on the 16th of June, 1907, and is a sturdy youngster who never permits an atmosphere of lethargy to pervade the family home.

ANDREW KNIGHT. So varied and interesting has been the career of this honored citizen of Battle Creek and so closely has the family name been identified with the history of Calhoun county that it were impossible within the compass of a publication of this order to do more than give the merest epitome of his life record and of the history of the sterling family of which he is a worthy scion. His parents established their home in Calhoun county the year prior to the admission of Michigan to the Union, and he is a native son of the county, which he saw develop from little more than a forest wilderness to its present state of opulent prosperity. The name which he bears has been most prominently identified with industrial and civic progress in this favored section of the Wolverine state and in connection with industrial interests in Battle Creek he himself well upheld the prestige of the name which he bears. His reminiscences touching the pioneer era in the history of the county are graphic and of distinctive interest, and few residents of this part of the state have a more intimate knowledge concerning the various stages of progress that have marked the passing years. Even these brief statements indicates how many are the salient points that might well be touched in offering a resume of the career of Mr. Knight, but it is hoped that even the brief sketch here presented may prove adequate to reveal somewhat of his personal achievement and of the family record.

Andrew Knight was born in Marshall, the judicial center of Calhoun county, Michigan, on the 2nd of May, 1838, the territory having become in the preceding year one of the sovereign commonwealths of the federal Union. He is a descendant in the fifth generation from Charles Knight, who was a native of England and who came to America in 1724. This sterling ancestor secured a tract of land near Worcester, Massachusetts, and there he passed the residue of his life. His son Charles, great-grandfather of him whose name initiates this review,

Hosted by Google

likewise lived and died on this ancestral homestead, and the latter's son, Charles (III), was there born and there passed his entire life. In addition to being successfully identified with the agricultural industry he also owned and operated both a saw mill and grist mill. He was a citizen of prominence and influence in his community and was a valiant soldier of the Continental line in the war of the Revolution. His son Charles (IV), father of the subject of this sketch, was born at Worcester, Massachusetts, where he was reared and educated and where he learned the business of manufacturing sash, doors and blinds. As a young man he removed to Clarence, Erie county, New York, where he engaged in that line of enterprise in an independent way, and there also was solemnized his marriage to Miss Angeline Nash, daughter of Moses Nash, a representative citizen of that section. They continued to maintain their home at Clarence until 1836, when Mr. Knight disposed of his interests there and came to the territory of Michigan, which was at that time beginning to draw largely upon New York state in the settling and developing of its southern counties.

Upon coming to Michigan Charles Knight established his home in Marshall, Calhoun county, which was then a small hamlet, with only a few business places. There he began the manufacturing of sash, doors and blinds and also initiated business as a contractor and builder. He was one of the first regularly equipped contractors in this line in the county, and he soon built up a prosperous business. In 1840 he removed with his family to Clarendon, this county, and in the autumn of 1842 he established a permanent home in Battle Creek. Here he engaged in the same line of enterprise which he had previously followed, and his manufacturing plant was located on the site later occupied by the original threshing-machine works of Nichols & Shepard. After a time he erected a factory adjoining the Mason & Ward woolen mills, on what is now Madison street, and he continued to be actively engaged in the manufacturing business of the one order until the close of his life. He was originally a Whig in his political proclivities but espoused the cause of the Republican party at the time of its organization and ever afterward continued a stalwart advocate of its principles and policies. Both he and his wife were zealous adherents of the Presbyterian church and were numbered among the leading members of the First Presbyterian church in Battle Creek. Of the children of these honored pioneers, six sons and four daughters attained to years of maturity, Andrew, of this review, having been the fourth in order of birth, and of the others one son and but one daughter are living at the time of this writing, in 1912.

Andrew Knight was a child of about four years at the time of the family removal to Battle Creek, and here he gained his early education in the pioneer schools, his first teacher having been A. D. P. Van Buren, and the original "temple of learning" which he attended having been a log building, twelve feet square, with a slab door, puncheon floor and slab benches, the heating facilities being summed up in a huge fireplace in one end of the room. Later Mr. Knight attended a select school and he completed his youthful education in the building of the first union school established in Battle Creek.

At the age of nineteen years, in 1857, Mr. Knight went to Chicago, which then gave slight evidence of being the nucleus of a great metropolis, and he secured a position as clerk in the general store of Christopher Metz, at 52 State street. He was thus engaged for a period of eighteen months and soon afterward he went to New York city, whence he sailed to Savannah, Georgia. After making two trips of this kind he accepted the position of storekeeper on the steamship "Ariel," on

Hosted by Google

which he made five voyages to important ports of England, France and Germany. On his final return voyage to New York the vessel encountered a terrible storm, with which it battled for twenty-eight days. The boat nearly met wreck at several times; the captain was killed at the post of duty and all of the other officers were disabled. The vessel finally reached port in New York, when fourteen days overdue, and it had been given up for lost ten days previously. All on board suffered great hardship, but the experience did not discourage the seafaring propensities of Mr. Knight. Soon afterward he embarked on the "Philadelphia," bound from New York to New Orleans, by way of Havana, Cuba, and thereafter he and his brother Charles M., were identified with navigation interests on the Gulf of Mexico until May 16, 1861. When the Civil war was precipitated upon a divided nation he was held under close surveillance in the south, as it was known that he was a northern man, and two weeks passed before he was able to escape espionage and set forth for the north. He took passage on the "William H. Morrison," and on this packet steamer he made his way up the Mississippi river from New Orleans to St. Louis, this having been the last ship to make the voyage up the river prior to the establishing of naval and military regulations along its course. Mr. Knight arrived in St. Louis two days after the serious riots there caused by sectional animosities, and he arrived at his home in Battle Creek on the 16th of June, 1861.

On the 20th of June, 1862, in response to President Lincoln's call for three hundred thousand volunteers, Mr. Knight enlisted in Company C, Twentieth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and after the command made rendezvous in Jackson it proceeded to Washington, D. C., where it arrived just after the battle of Chantilly. The regiment became a part of the First Brigade, Second Division, Ninth Army Corps, under General Burnside, and it made a most gallant and meritorious record, as it participated in thirty-two battles besides numerous skirmishes and other minor engagements. After participating in the engagements at Fredericksburg, Vicksburg and Jackson, the Twentieth Michigan was sent back to eastern Tennessee, where he took part in the battles of London Bridge, Campbell Station, Knoxville, and Strawberry Plains, with incidental skirmishes at frequent intervals for nearly a year. In the spring of 1864 the regiment returned to the national capital, and thereafter participated in the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania Courthouse, Nye River and Bethesda Church. It then crossed the James river, arriving at Petersburg on the 16th of May, 1864, Mr. Knight was in the conflicts at that point on that and the succeeding day and, on the night of the 17th his brother George C., who was captain of the First Michigan Sharpshooters, was killed. Mr. Knight himself went into the battle again on the next day, but about ten o'clock in the morning he was wounded so severely that he had to be removed to the field hospital, from which he was transferred to the Army Square hospital, in the city of Washington, where he remained for a year. He was then transferred to the hospital at Chester, Pennsylvania, and there he received his honorable discharge on the 22d of June, 1865. For six years after he sustained the wound in battle Mr. Knight was an invalid from the result of the injury, and he patiently endured much suffering during this long period.

In 1879 Mr. Knight assumed the management of the manufacturing business which had been founded by his father in Battle Creek, and he amplified the same by manufacturing a general line of building material, in addition to the original output of sash, doors and blinds. The family name was perpetuated in connection with this line of enter-

Hosted by Google

prise in Battle Creek for about six decades, and at the time of his retirement he was the oldest man in this field of industry in Calhoun county. Many other enterprises of like order had been established in Battle Creek, but his outlived them all. He had an extensive plant at 147-9 West Main street. His original plant, that established by his father, was destroyed by fire, and after renewing operation in the Leggett building he again met with similar disaster, after which he built the large plant on West Main street, where he built up an extensive and prosperous business. Eventually the available supply of lumber in this part of the state became so depleted that he deemed it expedient to close his factory, and he was further led to take this action on account of advanced age and somewhat impaired health. He accordingly retired from active business in 1910, and there is no factory of similar functions in the city at the present time. The factory building has been remodeled and is now rented as an automobile garage. Along the frontage on West Main street Mr. Knight has erected a series of ten stores, which are rented for various lines of business. Mr. and Mrs. Knight have occupied their present home, at 52 West Van Buren street, for the past thirty-six years, and the gracious hospitality of the same has never waned.

In politics Mr. Knight has ever given unqualified allegiance to the Republican party and he is admirably fortified in his opinions concerning matters of public polity. He has taken deep interest in all that has tended to advance the civic and material progress and prosperity of his home city and native county, both of which are endeared to him by many gracious associations and memories. He and his wife have been for many years zealous members of the First Baptist church and both were formerly active in connection with the various departments of its work, especially the Sunday school. Mrs. Knight is at the present time (1912) president of the Ladies Aid Society of this church, but advancing years and the cares of her home now prevent her from giving as much time as she formerly did to the affairs of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, various clubs and general social affairs. Both she and her husband are well known in Calhoun county and their circle of friends is limited only by that of their acquaintances. Mr. Knights is affiliated with Battle Creek Lodge, No. 12, Free & Accepted Masons and is a charter member and honored and valued comrade of Farragut Post, No. 32, Grand Army of the Republic.

On Christmas day of the year 1874 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Knight to Miss Delia A. Dilley, who was born and reared in Akron, Erie county, New York, and their ideal companionship has thus continued for nearly half a century. Mrs. Knight is a daughter of William Dilley, who came from Akron, New York, and established his home in Jackson county, Michigan, in the pioneer days. Mr. and Mrs. Knight have two children,—Willard A. and Lloyd O. The elder son is a representative member of the bar of Battle Creek and is individually mentioned on other pages of this work. Lloyd O., who was engaged in manufacturing with his father in this city, married Miss Mary Courter, daughter of Prof. Frank C. Courter, a talented artist residing in the city of New York, and they have two sons,—Maxwell Lloyd and Robert Louis. Lloyd O. Knight and his family reside in an attractive home which adjoins that of his father and which was erected by the latter in 1876.

GEORGE S. SMITH. One of the fine old veterans of the Civil war, who has also worthily lived the useful life of a traveling man is George S. Smith, whose genial nature has won him many friends during his

Hosted by Google

life's journey. He has lived in Calhoun county since he was a lad of eleven years and has therefore seen more than fifty years of development in this vicinity. His parents, Sidney and Mary P. (Lighthall) Smith, were both natives of New York state. They came to Michigan in 1854, locating in Calhoun county. The first farm purchased by Sidney Smith was in Marshall township, his later property being in Fredonia township, where he erected good buildings and became one of the prosperous farmers of the community. His last residence was in the city of Marshall, where he died in 1883, the seventy-sixth year of his life. Mrs. Sidney Smith lived until 1887. She and her husband were the parents of five children, of whom George S. was the first.

The date of George Smith's nativity was June 15, 1843, and his birthplace was Albany county, New York. That locality was the home of his childhood and there he attended the district schools until the time of the family emigration to Michigan. After the establishment of the home in Calhoun county, he attended the Marshall public schools, until he had reached an age at which it was advisable that he share the labors of the farm with his father. He was eighteen years of age when the Civil war began and his youthful patriotism was such that he at once enlisted in the service of his country, joining the 16th Michigan Infantry, under the regimental command of Colonel Stockton. His first discharge was in February, 1862. He re-enlisted in August of the same year in the 20th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Colonel O. B. Cutchin commanding the regiment. His regiment was ordered to the front and was stationed in front of Petersburg, where a rather prolonged time was spent in guarding that place. During this engagement Mr. Smith was shot through the right breast and arm, the wound proving to be such a serious one that he was taken to a hospital. Here he remained until he had to some extent recovered his strength, whereupon he returned to Marshall. Here after practically completing his convalescence, he returned to his regiment. In all he served forty-four months.

In 1869 Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Sarah M. Van Voorhees as his life's comrade. She was the daughter of Isaac and Maria (Mead) Van Voorhees, her parents settling in Calhoun county in 1847, among the early pioneers. She was at that time but one year old, her birth having occurred April 5, 1846, in New York City. Her home was in Fredonia township before her marriage. During the years of her life with Mr. Smith, two children have been born to them, who are named as follows: Frederick W., Charles C. The three hundred-acre farm which was the home of this family became an attractive and productive one under the care of Mr. Van Voorhees, who improved it in various features, both as to convenience and good appearance.

Since his retirement from the activities of life, Mr. Smith has been honored by election to the office of city treasurer, and has served as city supervisor. In politics he is a pronounced Republican but his attitude toward those entertaining different views from himself is always one of respect. He retains his active connection with the Grand Army of the Republic, as a member of Colegrove Post, No. 166. His interesting reminiscences of the exciting years of national upheaval, as well as his clear and kindly outlook on all present affairs of public interest, make his residence at 721 East State street an attractive rendezvous for those of his appreciative friends who treasure the opinions and philosophies of those who have lived.

PHINEAS H. LANG. In partnership with his son-in-law, Phineas H. Lang is cultivating a well improved farm of two hundred and eighty

Hosted by Google

acres, the same being located in Le Roy township, Calhoun county, Michigan. Mr. Lang is a self made man in the most significant sense of the term. His success in life is due entirely to his unremitting labors and conscientious devotion to duty. He is a man of honorable and straightforward principles and is everywhere accorded the perfect confidence and high esteem of his fellow citizens.

In Piqua, Ohio, June 25, 1860, occurred the birth of Phineas H. Lang, the son of George and Mary (Maston) Lang, both natives of the Empire State. The father was born in Rochester, New York, on February 22, 1812, and there was reared to maturity. They became the parents of eleven children, of which number Phineas H. was the youngest and five are living at this time. William is engaged in farming on the Post farm in Newton township; Libby is the wife of Mr. Dixon; and Mary is the widow of Mr. Riley. George Lang removed with his family from New York to Ohio, but he remained in the latter state only a short time. He came to Michigan soon thereafter, and located in Kalamazoo county, where he eventually accumulated sufficient of this world's goods to enable him to purchase a farm, on which he lived during the remainder of his life. He raised his family there and when he died was well situated from a financial viewpoint. He passed away in 1882, aged seventy years. He was a Democrat in politics and in his religious adherence, was a Methodist, as was also his wife. His eldest son, Rowe Lang, enlisted in a Michigan regiment at the time of the War of the Rebellion, and met his death on the field of battle at Bull Run.

Phineas Lang was but a child at the time of the family removal from Ohio to Kalamazoo county, Michigan, and he received a fair education in the district schools. At the early age of twelve he started out on his own responsibility, and his first occupation was riding a horse hitched to a cultivator, his remuneration for that service being five cents daily. In 1902 he had so far advanced financially that he purchased a farm of eighty acres in Washtenaw county, but it so happened that he never resided on that place. Later he bought his present estate in Calhoun county, which originally comprised one hundred and twenty acres. He purchased the place on credit and worked another farm on shares to earn the money to meet the payments, and eventually found himself clear of debt in that connection. Since 19— he has been associated in farming enterprises with his son-in-law, P. M. Voyee, and together they own and operate a fine estate of two hundred and eighty acres. In politics Mr. Lang is an uncompromising Republican. He is not a seeker after public office or honors, and the only office he has held in the township is that of Moderator of the Blackett school in Newton township. While not formally connected with any religious organization, he attends and gives his support to the Congregational church, of which his wife is a member. In a fraternal way, he is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America at Sonoma, and for several years was connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

In 1887 Mr. Lang was united in marriage with Miss Anna Smith, a daughter of Oscar and Anna (Miller) Smith, the former of whom was born in Ohio, as was also Mrs. Lang, her birth occurring in the year 1863. The Smith family came to Kalamazoo county and there the parents passed the remainder of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Lang have one daughter, Agnes, who is the wife of P. M. Voyee. Mr. and Mrs. Voyee have three children—George, Ruth and Helen Gladys, here named in the respective order of their birth.

JAY C. SNYDER. The name of Snyder is a well known and respected one in Clarence township of Calhoun county where a member of each of

Hosted by Google

three successive generations of the family has been numbered among its most prosperous and worthy citizens. Jay C. Snyder is the present representative of the family in this community and has well upheld the prestige of the family name for honor and useful citizenship.

He was born April 2, 1869, in Clarence township, where also was born his father, Myron Snyder, whose nativity occurred in February 15, 1841. Myron Snyder is the son of John B. Snyder, who with his wife, Betsey E. (Collins) Snyder, came from New York to Calhoun county, Michigan, in 1839 and settled in Clarence township. Here John B. Snyder became the owner of a farm of 160 acres, on which he resided until his death. He was one of the first supervisors of Clarence township. Myron Snyder remained a resident of Clarence township until his retirement from the farm in November, 1911, at which time he removed to Albion, his present abode. He was educated in the district schools of this locality and until he reached manhood he assisted in the duties of the home farm. After his father's death he bought the interests of the other heirs in the estate and became the owner of eighty acres, to which he added by subsequent purchases until his holdings aggregated 370 acres. He started in business life without capital save for those qualities of character which are more valuable assets than money in the achievement of success, and retired from active life a man of substance. In politics his allegiance is given to the Democratic party. He served as supervisor of Clarence township seven years and also served as township treasurer a number of years. He took as his wife and helpmeet Miss Cornelia J. Southworth, whose parents, John H. and Emeline (Granger) Southworth, came from New York to Michigan in the early '40s and located near Tekonsha.

Jay C. Snyder, whose name introduces this review, is the only child of his parents. He received his education in the common schools of Clarence township and was reared to the occupation of farming. He was associated with his father on the home place until the latter's retirement in 1911, at which time he bought his father's 200 acre farm and has since resided on it. Besides the general lines of agricultural industry he gives special attention to the raising of beans. In political faith he too is a Democrat and he has served as supervisor of Clarence township six years and as treasurer four years, which is convincing evidence that he enjoys the same high standing and confidence in his community which were also accorded his father and grandfather. Fraternally he is a member of Springport Lodge, No. 284, Free and Accepted Masons.

In 1886 Mr. Snyder was united in marriage to Harriet B. Sine, daughter of John and Mary Sine, the former a native of Germany and the latter of New York. The father was but four years old when his parents immigrated to the United States and settled in Michigan, and the mother also accompanied her parents to Michigan when she was but a child. They were married in this state and resided here the remainder of their lives. One daughter, Mildred B., came to Mr. and Mrs. Snyder and left them at her death on January 28, 1911, when just blooming into young womanhood, being then seventeen years of age.

Dr. Arthur H. Kimball. A leading member of the medical profession of Battle Creek during a long and active career, the late Dr. Arthur H. Kimball stood high in the ranks of the fraternity, and in his death, which occurred August 6, 1894, the profession lost an honored member and the city a valued and valuable citizen. Dr. Kimball was born October 23, 1850, in Corinth, Vermont, and was a student and later a tutor in Barre Academy, in his native state. He graduated in medicine from Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, in 1875, and later completed a post-graduate course in Bellevue Hospital, New York. The doctor began the

Hosted by Google

practice of his profession at Cummington, Massachusetts, where he remained seven years, and in 1883 came to Battle Creek, being here engaged in practicing medicine and surgery up to the time of his death. He was a close and careful student, keeping fully abreast of the various changes and conversant with the discoveries made in the sciences of medicine and surgery, and accordingly built up a large and lucrative practice. A Democrat in political views, he served Battle Creek very acceptably in the office of health official, and while a resident of Cummington, Massachusetts, acted in the capacity of school director. He died at his home at No. 196 Maple street, and his widow now resides in the family residence, which was built by the doctor. Dr. Kimball took an active interest in the work of the various medical organizations, and was a member of the Calhoun County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He was a prominent Mason, and belonged to the Athelstan Club of Battle Creek and to the Independent Congregational church.

On September 15, 1876, Dr. Kimball was married to Marion B. Baker, in South Dennis, Massachusetts, she being a native of that place, where she was educated. Two sons were born to this union: Dr. Arthur S., a well known physician and surgeon of Battle Creek, a sketch of whose career appears on another page of this work; and Frank Hamilton, who died in Battle Creek, May 17, 1906, and left a widow, who has since died in California. They had one son, Oliver Arthur, who is now living with his maternal grandmother in Los Angeles, California. Mrs. Kimball spends her winters in the South and West, last winter being spent in St. Petersburg, Florida, and the summer months in her home in Battle Creek. She is a lady of culture and refinement and has many friends in social circles of the city.

GEORGE W. JENKINS. Farming, with all its branches, has been considered a good line of business since the beginning of the world, but within the past quarter of a century it has been developed in a remarkable degree, and at this time offers a splendid field for the man of energy, perseverance and ability. In this class stands George W. Jenkins, of Clarendon township, a man who has been in a remarkable degree the architect of his own fortunes, and who owes his present success in life entirely to his own efforts. Mr. Jenkins was born in New York, August 17, 1851, and is a son of Alfred and Mary A. (Lillie) Jenkins, natives of New York. The Jenkins family originated in Wales, from which country three brothers, John, James and William Jenkins, came to the United States during early colonial days, and settled in Chautauqua county, New York. The grandfather of George W. Jenkins, Joseph Jenkins, of New York, served as a soldier during the War of 1812-14, and during his later years came to Clarendon township, Calhoun county, Michigan. where he and his wife, Roby (Simmons) Jenkins, spent the remainder of their days. On the maternal side, George W. Jenkins is descended from Adam Lillie, a native of Germany and common laborer, who emigrated to the United States and spent the rest of his life in New York. Alfred Jenkins was born in 1817, in New York, and came to Michigan in 1852, settling in Clarendon township, where he purchased a farm of forty acres. This wild land he cleared from the brush and timber, and erected a log house, in which the family resided for twenty years. He died in 1905, on the old homestead, having been the father of five children, of whom three are living and George W. is the eldest of these. He and his wife, who was born in New York in 1823, were good Christian people and faithful members of the Disciples church, and in his political views Mr. Jenkins was a Republican.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



Willard S. Ellis

Hosted by Google

After completing his course in the district schools of Clarendon township, George W. Jenkins entered Holbrook Academy, Lebanon, Ohio, and there spent two years. On graduating from that institution he began teaching school, and so continued for some five years, but eventually removed to Nebraska, where he took up a homestead, and there remained eight years in farming and stock raising. Selling his homestead, Mr. Jenkins returned to Calhoun county and purchased his present farm, now a tract of eighty acres, all being under cultivation. In addition to carrying on general farming, he raises considerable stock, and in all his ventures has been evenly successful. A Republican in politics, he not only takes an interest in the success of his party, but gives attention to aiding in the advance of affairs in his township. He is a member of the Ancient Order of Gleaners and with his wife is a faithful attendant of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In 1886 Mr. Jenkins was united in marriage with Mrs. Lucinda (Moore) Craig, daughter of Stephen Moore, a native of New York, who came to Michigan in the early 'fifties and spent the rest of his life in agricultural pursuits in Calhoun county. Mrs. Jenkins died in November, 1906, without issue, and in 1908 Mr. Jenkins was married (second) to Mrs. Anna (Hundy) Hadley, daughter of Reuben Hundy, a native of Canada, who spent his last years in Calhoun county, being a shoemaker and market gardener. The family is well known and highly esteemed in Homer township, occupying a pleasant home and being possessed of numerous warm personal friends.

WILLARD S. EELLS. While the development of a city depends first of all on its business, that is, work it has to do in the world and the purpose it must fulfill, there is another factor, only second if not equal in importance, and that is the proper housing of the inhabitants. To stimulate an interest and desire for good comfortable homes is a work which any philanthropist might well undertake. In a large measure this has been the regular business of Mr. W. S. Eells in Battle Creek for the past fifteen years, and through his agency hundreds of residents have found homes and helped to raise the general living conditions of this widely known city of homes.

Mr. Eells was born in Battle Creek, February 20, 1873. His father, Calvin B. Eells, who died in this city December 20, 1908, was born in Herkimer county, New York, on December 19, 1834. He was educated at West Winfield, Herkimer county, in a private school, and his cousin, Leroy Bliss, also was born there. Well educated, Mr. Eells taught school during his early manhood for some years, and for five years he was a member of the Home Guards in the New York State Militia as orderly sergeant of his company. For many years he was a traveling salesman, and also sold bankrupt stocks in the East. After several years of arduous traveling in the south he came to Battle Creek for his health, and after his recovery remained here as a permanent settler. He bought some city property in the shape of houses for renting purposes on Goodale avenue and later purchased sixty-five acres of land in Battle Creek and Bedford townships, which was his regular home until his death. This property now joins the city limits and is reached by the Upton avenue car line. It constitutes a very desirable property today, and is located next to the Post Land Company's addition. It is still owned by the heirs of Calvin B. Eells and it is the plan and intention of Mr. W. S. Eells to plat it in a few years and sell it for residence lots. Calvin B. Eells had the distinction of being a participant in the historic meeting under the oaks at Jackson where the first organization of the Republican party was affected. He had ability as a public speaker and

Hosted by Google

during his considerable activity in politics made stump speeches in many places. The father of Calvin B. Eells was Joseph Eells, who served with distinction as a captain in the war of 1812. The family is one of Welch origin. Calvin B. Eells first came to Michigan in 1865, locating in Battle Creek, Calhoun county, where he lived for nine years, then moving to Battle Creek township. On July 3, 1871, he married Miss Mattie Benton, who was a daughter of Felix Benton, whose father was a Revolutionary soldier. Thomas H. Benton, her cousin, was a senator from Missouri prior to the Civil war period. She was born and educated at Middlebury, Vermont, where she attended Middlebury College and a Female Seminary in that place. She came to Michigan with a group of Seventh Day Adventists who came to Battle Creek as colonists, and she taught school in the township, and she was a resident at the old Health Reform Institute, the original of the present Battle Creek Sanatorium, while Calvin Eells was regaining his health there. In this manner an acquaintance was formed which culminated in their marriage on the date mentioned above. Two sons and two daughters were born to them: Mary J., who lives at home in Battle Creek; Willard S. of this review; Charles F., who lives on the farm; and Mrs. Bessie Jones of Jackson, Michigan. By a previous marriage, Mr. Eells had one daughter, now Mrs. W. W. Clement, of Faribault, Minnesota. She was born in New York state. The children of his second marriage were born in Calhoun county and here educated. The mother, who still survives her husband and resides at No. 41 Orin street, is one of the oldest members of the Seventh Day Adventist church.

When Willard S., was about six weeks old his parents moved out to the farm near the city, and there he spent his youth. He attended the city schools and also took a private business course and studied real estate law with W. S. Powers and Henry F. Jacobs. He has been dealing in real estate for the past eighteen years, and with one exception, is the oldest real estate dealer in continuous business in this city. In 1897 he opened his office, and has continued in the business since that time. His partner at that time for a year was John Walters, and the firm was known as Eells Real Estate Co., but since the termination of that association in a year after its birth, he has been an independent factor in the real estate business of the city. His specialty has been the building of houses to sell on the easy payment plan, and in this way he has furnished opportunities to almost countless families to secure their own homes. He is the owner of considerable realty in the city, and during the present year (1912) has begun another active campaign of building. The magnitude of this enterprise is indicated by the fact that he and another real estate man of the city, Mr. I. W. Schram, have jointly ordered through a local lumber company an entire train load of building material. Unlike most real estate men Mr. Eells choses the sites near the business district for his building operations, instead of the outlying tracts. This middle field has often been overlooked to the detriment of a growing city, and while his operations have proved profitable, they are also productive of benefit to the permanent prosperity of Battle Creek. Mr. Eells office is at No. 6 East Main, street, and his home, a fine modern residence, is at No. 384 Upton avenue, where he has lived for seven years. A bachelor, he has lived alone and kept his own house without the aid of a housekeeper for eighteen years.

Mr. Eells is a very enterprising man as an advertiser, and relies on board publicity for the promotion of his business. He is one of the leading citizens of Battle Creek, and has played an important part in the history of the city in the years that he has been identified with its

Hosted by Google

development. As charter member of the Battle Creek Real Estate Board, he was recently chairman of the committee of three to revise the by-laws and constitution and provide for the incorporation of the board. He was the administrator of his father's estate, and a considerable part of his business has been in the administration of estates and trusts. For many years he has helped to sustain and been an active worker in the Young Men's Christian Association. Politically, his actions have been independent of party, and his support may be depended upon to go to the best man.

HENRY H. MILLER was born at Middleport, Niagara county, New York, December 24, 1836. His father, Etheny E. Miller, a native of Connecticut, was born July 12, 1795, and was a stone mason by trade. He removed from his early home in his native state to Crown Point, New York, where he lived for some time prior to taking up his abode in Middleport. In 1838 he came from the latter named place to Wayne county, Michigan, and, locating near Ypsilanti, Michigan, he worked at his trade there for several years. In his old age he went to spent his last days with his daughter, Mrs. Jesse Smith, at Lawton, Michigan, and died there February 14, 1856. His wife, whose maiden name was Nancy C. Smith, was a native of Crown Point, New York, born about 1820. She died in Wayne county, when her son, Henry H. of this review, was two years of age.

Thus early deprived of the loving care of a mother, Henry H. Miller was taken by his aunt, Hulda L. Robbins, of Niagara county, New York, and was reared by her. He was given good educational advantages, first attending the district school, then studying at Lockport Union school, and he subsequently took the teacher's course at the Normal school at Ypsilanti in this state. He took up the work of teaching at Lawton, Michigan, in 1858, and continued to be thus engaged there until 1861. He also taught school in Eckford township, having charge of the school there for four winters after the close of the Rebellion.

When the war broke out Mr. Miller enlisted with Company C, Third Michigan Cavalry, on September 17, 1861, and below is given an account in brief of his actual experiences throughout the war, he having taken part in nearly all the engagements of his regiment in the Army of the Tennessee and Mississippi.

He left Grand Rapids with his regiment November 28, 1861, for St. Louis, Missouri, the regiment being in command of Colonel R. H. G. Minty.

In March, 1862, he was in an engagement at New Madrid and Island No. 10, Missouri, and was in saddle and under fire for twenty days.

After surrender of Island No. 10 by the rebels, and assisting in rounding up seven thousand prisoners, he went with regiment up the Tennessee river and took part in the siege of Corinth, which lasted until the end of May. (In saddle and under fire for twenty-one days.)

He was present at Iuka, the next battle fought, September 19, 1862; Gen. Price of the rebel forces lost out of 12,000 men, one thousand as prisoners and many killed. The Union loss was seven hundred and thirty killed and wounded. (In saddle and under fire fifteen days.)

One of the hardest fought battles was that of Corinth, Mississippi, October 3 and 4, 1862. Heat was intense and dust dreadful; for several days in saddle and under fire, night and day. Followed retreat of rebels under Price and Vandorn for seventy-five miles into the heart of Mississippi, capturing many prisoners.

A few of the many other engagements in which his regiment participated might be mentioned as follows:

Hosted by Google

A charge into Holly Springs, Mississippi, early in the morning of May 7, 1862, capturing whole outpost, 140 prisoners, with horses, arms and equipments—distance traveled was thirty miles.

A charge into Hudsonville, Mississippi, November 14, 1862, capturing one hundred prisoners with horses and equipments.

At Coffeysville, Mississippi, November 29, 1862, capturing many prisoners; traveled seventy miles.

February 10, 1863, with sixty men crossed the Tennessee river at Clifton one dark night—surprised and captured Col. Newsom of the rebel forces, with sixty-nine men and horses, then recrossed river and delivered them at headquarters, Jackson, Tennessee, the next day.

Grenada, Mississippi, August 14, 1863. Marched eighty miles, captured and destroyed sixty locomotives, five hundred railroad cars, depot buildings, etc., besides capturing many prisoners.

November 29, 1863. Cavalry and sabre charge at Ripley, Mississippi, after marching from Corinth, Mississippi, a distance of twenty-five miles. Fight lasted three days, secured one hundred and fifty prisoners. Sergeant Dexter, riding by side of Mr. Miller was shot dead. Several killed and wounded.

Jackson, Tennessee, July 18, 1863. In desperate fight with Forrest, the noted rebel raider. The command captured one hundred and seventy-eight prisoners and two hundred and fifty horses; buried thirty-two rebels on the field; a hand to hand fight of three hours. H. H. Miller ran down and captured rebel lieutenant with sword, revolver and equipments;—the sword still being in Mr. Miller's possession. Distance traveled was about thirty miles.

Water Valley, Mississippi, December 2, 1862. Lieut. Corbin, Lieut. McEntee and several privates killed, and many wounded after march of seventy-five miles from Corinth.

December 20, 1862. Cavalry expedition from Water Valley, Mississippi, to Holly Springs, fifty miles, then to Ripley, Middleburg and Bolivar in pursuit of the rebel general, Vandorn. The pursuit extended one hundred and thirty miles into the heart of Mississippi, capturing many prisoners and horses; in saddle nine days and nights with scant rations and jaded horses.

In June, 1863, accompanied the General Grierson raid into Northwest Missouri. On a dark night crossed the Talehatchie river, by the light of bonfires; made the horses swim across; had fights at Holly Springs and Panola. Captured six hundred mules and horses, six hundred negroes, fifty prisoners from Forrest. Then marched back to Corinth, a total distance of one hundred miles.

Accompanied General Grierson in raid to Columbus and West Point, Mississippi, a distance of one hundred and sixty miles; battled with Gen. Forrest of the rebel forces at West Point, Pontotoc, Aberdeen, Oakalona; lost and recaptured by sabre charge the First Illinois Battery. In saddle fifteen days. Union forces secured one hundred horses, one thousand mules, horses and negroes; burned three thousand bales of cotton; one million bushels of corn and destroyed miles of Mobile & Ohio railroad. General Grierson's aid and many others killed in this raid. H. H. Miller, acting as Gen. Grierson's orderly, received shot through left bootleg and another through canteen and clothes near right side, but received no wound.

Early in July, 1864, accompanied General A. J. Smith and Grierson's raid to Hernando, Mississippi, Moscow, Tennessee, Saulsbury, Ripley, Pontotoc and Tupelo, Mississipi, a distance of one hundred and thirty miles. At Tupelo a terrible battle was fought with Forrest. Union loss was seventy-seven killed and five hundred wounded, while the rebel

Hosted by Google

loss was two hundred and ten killed and eleven hundred and sixteen wounded. Mr. Miller was with advance in severe charge of three hundred cavalry at Pontotoc, the Union loss in this charge being three killed and fourteen wounded; rebel loss, seven killed, twenty-eight wounded and forty-two prisoners. In saddle fifteen days; traveled one hundred and fifty miles. Short rations and jaded horses.

August 21, 1864, Mr. Miller was present and took active part in driving out of Memphis, Tennessee, the rebel forces, when city was surprised and occupied by General Forrest. In a charge to save General Hurlbut and General Washburn's headquarters, Colonel M. H. Starr, inspector general on Gen. Grierson's staff, was mortally wounded. Mr. Miller was then the only clerk in his office. Colonel Starr was a noble specimen of manhood and a gallant soldier.

Mr. Miller was with General Grant through Tennessee and Mississippi as a member of General Grierson's cavalry throughout the campaign of Vicksburg, and miraculously escaped unharmed though in the thick of many a heavy fire of the enemy.

The regiment saw some of the hardest fighting of the war; distance traveled was 10,800 miles, besides marches made by separate companies. Prisoners captured by the regiment, 2,100. Total loss of regiment, four hundred and fourteen officers and men.

November 28, 1863, Mr. Miller received detail as clerk and orderly in inspector's department at General Grierson's headquarters, Memphis, Tennessee, and accompanied General Grierson as orderly on all his expeditions in Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi.

Mr. Miller has in his possession strong recommendations from the famous Major General B. H. Grierson and his inspector, General M. H. Starr of the Cavalry Division of the Sixteenth Army Corps: Following are copies of same:

HD. QRS. CAV. DIV. 16 ARMY CORPS,
April 4, 1864.

I take pleasure in recommending Mr. H. H. Miller as an honest, industrious man and a good soldier. I am of the opinion that he would make an excellent officer. My opinion is formed from personal acquaintance, Mr. Miller having been on duty in my office for six months.

M. H. STARR,
Col. and Asst. Inspector Gen.,
Cav. Div. 16 Army Corps.

HD. QRS. CAV. DIV. 16 A. C.
Memphis, Tenn., April 8, 1864.

Respectfully commended. Private Henry H. Miller has particularly attracted my attention on account of his honesty, industry and sobriety.

I trust his application may receive consideration.

B. H. GRIERSON,
Brigadier General.

General George B. Halsted wrote him thus:

Memphis, Tennessee, June 1, 1864.

HENRY H. MILLER, Co. C, 3d MICH. CAV.:

Sir:—I have the honor to inform you that the examining board has found you fitted for the position of Second Lieutenant in a regiment of cavalry, and recommend your appointment accordingly.

Very respectfully,
GEORGE B. HALSTED.

July 4, 1864, received commission as second lieutenant, 4th U. S. Heavy Artillery and served at Columbus and Louisville, Kentucky, also at Pine Bluff and Little Rock, Arkansas, until discharged February 25,

Hosted by Google

1866, at Little Rock, Arkansas, after having participated in thirty-four battles, in addition to many minor engagements—thirty-four occasions when life with all its youthful hopes was freely offered that the nation might live.

In the spring of 1865, when stationed at Columbus, Kentucky, Lieutenant Miller received instructions from Colonel McArthur, who was commanding the post, to take ten picked men of his company and capture a noted guerilla captain, named Cal Clark, who had been giving a world of trouble, then somewhere in west Tennessee. He succeeded in locating and capturing the bushwhacker ten miles east of Columbus in an all night raid, and marched him to headquarters to answer for his crimes.

The captain being home on sick leave, Lieutenant Miller commanded his company from February to November, in 1865, then stationed at Columbus and Louisville, Kentucky. He remained in the service nearly four and one-half years. In the spring of 1864, just after the massacre of the garrison of Fort Pillow by General Forest, the regiment repelled the attack and refused order for unconditional surrender from rebel, General Buford, after which Generals Buford and Forrest made hasty retreat out of Tennessee.

Upon leaving the army, H. H. Miller returned to Lawton, where he was engaged in a general store for one year. He then exchanged the store for a farm in Cass county, nine miles south of Lawton, comprising eighty acres of land, of which forty acres were improved. He lived there sixteen months, then sold the farm advantageously, and came to Calhoun county, where he purchased forty-eight acres of improved land, nine miles south of Marshall, in Tekonsha township. For the ensuing three years he was engaged in farming this land.

In 1872 Mr. Miller sold this farm and bought his present place of ninety acres, of which forty acres are on section ten and fifty acres on section fifteen, in Eckford township. This is all improved land, with house and barn in good condition, and the farm, which is especially fertile, is on the whole, in excellent order.

Mr. Miller was united in marriage on March 18, 1867, to Sarah E. Kennedy. She was born in county Tipperary, Ireland, October 22, 1834, and is a lineal descendant of Baron Kennedy of Kilbaron. Her father, John Kennedy, died and was buried in Ireland. Her mother, whose maiden name was Julia Flynn, came to the United States with her children, when Mrs. Miller was seven years of age. When she was twelve, the family settled in Marshall, and there the mother died in 1850. Mrs. Miller was the fourth child in a family of three sons and two daughters, of whom she alone survives today. Mr. Miller is one of six children of his parents, he being the fifth in order of birth. He and one sister are the sole survivors of the family.

Two children, a son and a daughter, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Miller. Their son, George H., was born October 9, 1868. He was educated in the Marshall schools and was graduated from the high school in 1888. He pursued the scientific courses at Ann Arbor and was graduated from the University of Michigan in the spring of 1893. Subsequently, for eight years, he successfully followed the profession of teaching, and was engaged in the high schools of Marshall, Michigan, and Blue Island, Illinois. At the present time he is ocupying a lucrative position with Sears, Roebuck & Company, in Chicago, as general manager of their employment department.

The daughter of the house, who was named Winnie B., was born December 18, 1869. She was also a graduate of Marshall high school and was for nine years one of the corps of teachers of the Marshall public

Hosted by Google

schools until her marriage to Schuyler C. French, September 20, 1898. Her death occurred April 2, 1910.

Mr. Miller has ever been a Republican and cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. The cause of education has had for him a peculiar interest and he has served it well as township superintendent of schools and as school inspector. He also held the office of township clerk for eleven years.

In addition to his farm in Eckford, Mr. Miller owns a fine residence, centrally located in Marshall, Michigan, where he has lived since 1890.

In the year 1891 Mr. Miller became a comrade in the G. A. R., joining C. Colegrove Post No. 166 of Marshall, Michigan. He was commander of his post three terms and has held other responsible offices since he became a member of it. In addition thereto, he has held the office of secretary of Calhoun County Soldiers' Relief Commission since 1907, and is still the incumbent of the office. He is patriotic instructor of his post, an office which carries with it much important work, and he has almost continuously held the office of chief marshal for Memorial Day. He has also been honored with the office of colonel of Calhoun County Veteran Battalion, a position which he now holds.

EZRA B. MURDOCK. As one of the representative farmers and stockgrowers of his native county Mr. Murdock is entitled to specific recognition in this publication. He is the owner of a fine landed estate of 160 acres, in Marengo township, and the same, with its admirable improvements and specially successfull operations, is known as one of the model farms of the county. Mr. Murdock is a scion of a family whose name has been worthily linked with the industrial and civic history of Calhoun county for nearly 60 years and as a progressive and substantial agriculturist and grower of and dealer in live stock he himself has attained to marked precedence, the while he is held in high regard as a loyal and public-spirited citizen.

Mr. Murdock was born on the old homestead farm, in Marengo township, this county, and the date of his nativity was January 27, 1855 He is a son of Ira and Sarah (Bryan) Murdock, both of whom were born and reared in the state of New York, and the latter of whom was a daughter of Ezra Bryan, in whose honor the subject of this review was named. In 1842 Ira Murdock came to Michigan and purchased a farm of 80 acres, in Clarendon township, only a part of the land having been cleared. He traded this for a farm in Marengo township and added to this until it comprised 170 acres. He became one of the prominent agriculturists and stockgrowers of the county and took special interest in the improving of the grades of cattle and swine raised in this section of the state, his reputation as a successful and enterprising breeder of fine stock having been of more than local order. He was a man of sterling character and indefatigable energy, and he gained definite success and advancement through his own well directed endeavors. He was a Democrat in his political adherency and was influential in public affairs in his community, and of their children one son and two daughters are now living. Ira Murdock continued to reside on his farm until his death, which occurred in 1877, and his wife, who proved a devoted companion and helpmeet, was summoned to eternal rest in 1899, the names of both meriting place on the roster of the honored pioneers of Calhoun county.

Ezra Bryan Murdock was reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm and after completing the curriculum of the district school near his home he continued his studies in the public schools in the city of Marshall. After leaving school he returned to the parental farmstead, with the work and management of which he continued to be identified until the

Hosted by Google

death of his parents, after which he purchased the interests of the other heirs and thus came into possession of his present and well improved farm. He is aggressive and enterprising in the various departments of his industrial activities, has been specially interested in the breeding and training of fine horses, and has for a number of years conducted a prosperous business in the buying and shipping of live stock. His love of fine horses has made him an adept in judging values and also in the training of the noble animals, so that his services have been in requisition in the development and exploiting of the powers of a number of fine standard-bred horses owned by others. At the time of this writing he is training for turf purposes the mare "Blue Bell," which is owned by Richard Conley, a representative horseman of Marshall township. The mare mentioned is a most beautiful animal and is destined to make her mark in racing events.

In politics Mr. Murdock accords a stanch allegiance to the Democratic party, but he has never desired or held public office of any description.

In the year 1877 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Murdock to Miss Alice L. Godfrey, who was born and reared in this county and who is a daughter of Charles and Mary (Lyman) Godfrey, her father having been one of the representative agriculturists of Emmett township, Mr. and Mrs. Murdock became the parents of three children,—Charles I., who is a resident of Marshall where he is engaged as traveling salesman for the Marshall Furnace Company; Stella, who is the wife of William Wells, an employe in the postoffice at Marshall; and Roy L., who is engaged in the hardware business at Union City, Branch county.

HARRY E. BURT. Now a prominent, a progressive and a representative resident of Battle Creek, and descended from a long line of ancestors, Harry E. Burt himself and his career are worthy of note. He is in the eighth generation of the family in America, the progenitors of which, Richard and James Burt, were early settlers of Taunton, Massachusetts. Richard Burt appears as one of the forty-six first purchasers, in 1639, while James is first mentioned as a surveyor of roads in 1645, although neither are on the military list of August, 1643. Most of the heads of the various branches of Burts were farmers and iron workers, and all were at some time residents of Taunton or Berkley, which, until 1735, was a part of Taunton. From tablets in Memorial Hall, Northampton, we find that David, Elkanah, Henry and Joel Burt were minute men from 1775 to 1783; John Burt served in the French and Indian war, 1703 to 1713; Elkanah Burt served under Seth Pomeroy, Major, in the expedition to Louisburg, in 1745, and Joseph and Oliver Burt were soldiers in the French and Indian war, 1754 to 1763, and all of these were doubtless descendants of David of Northampton. Throughout the early warfare with the Indians, the Burts bore the reputation of being fearless, hard-fighting men, and many interesting stories of their prowess have found a place in history. It was the custom of the Indians during those days to give their prisoners a chance to display their bravery, and those who showed themselves to be men of courage often were given their liberty. On one occasion, so runs the story, one of the Burts was captured by the Indians and compelled by them to row them across a river, during the crossing of which one of the redmen spat upon the prisoner. The latter promptly arose, knocked the Indian into the river, and thus winning their admiration by his fearlessness, secured his liberty. At another time, when a party of white men were being made to run the gauntlet, a favorite pastime with the hostiles in those days, one of the Burts was knocked to the ground by a club held in the hands of a squaw.

Hosted by Google

Arising, he gave her such a blow as to fell her to the ground, and continued his way through the gauntlet unmolested.

Mr. Burt's maternal great-grandfather, Samuel Severance, was a native of Massachusetts, and at the age of eighteen years entered the American army as a cook for Gen. George Washington, serving in that capacity until 1781, when he entered the ranks to take the place of his father, who had been drafted. He enlisted March 21, 1781, in a company commanded by Capt. Francis Green, in the regiment of Col. Joseph Vose, of the Massachusetts line, and served until June 8, 1783, when he received Bradford county, Pa., and in 1815 settled at Springfield. He married Azuba Smith, and their children were as follows: Sarah, who married his honorable discharge. Subsequently he removed from Shelburne to David Phinney; Mary, who married Oliver Gates; Patience, who married John Harkness; and Clarissa, who married Almond Berry, the latter being Mr. Burt's grandfather. Samuel Severance passed away in 1835.

Ezekiel Burt, the father of Harry E., was born January 21, 1840, in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, and has spent his life in agricultural pursuits, being now a retired resident of Jamestown, New York. He married Mary L. Berry, also a native of Bradford county, who died in Maryland, June 4, 1900, and they had three sons: Caleb A., born December 4, 1861, who died February 13, 1863; Harry E., born May 20, 1866; and Charles F., born March 9, 1868, who is now a resident of New York City, being chief clerk in the United States assay office on Wall street.

The early education of Harry E. Burt was obtained in a little brown schoolhouse in the vicinity of his father's farm in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, and this was supplemented by attendance at the Troy high school. At the age of nineteen years he left the parental roof and went to Elmira, New York, to learn the watchmaker's trade with the leading jeweler of that city, and in 1888 came west to Battle Creek, Michigan. Here his first employment was with N. A. Osgood, then the leading jeweler of this city, located on the present site of the Central National Bank, but after about one year went to Kalamazoo and worked for A. C. Wortley, in whose employ he continued six months. His next location was in Saginaw, Michigan, where for about four years he worked for the jewelry firm of J. C. Watts & Company, and during this time married a Battle Creek girl. Giving up his position he returned to this city and with a partner, Sherman W. Moody, bought out the old Osgood store, in which he had been employed on first coming to Battle Creek, and under the firm name of Burt & Moody did a large business until 1897. On August 7th of that year Mr. Burt became superintendent for the Postum Cereal Co., Ltd., which was then a small but rapidly growing enterprise, which now employs some 800 men. Much of the credit for the growth of this concern must be given to the able management of Mr. Burt, whose importance in the manufacturing field has grown commensurately with that of the business with which he is connected. A thoroughly skilled mechanic, with all the true watchmaker's love for his art, he often joins his jewelers in some intricate piece of work, glad once more to feel the tools of his trade in his hands. He is a general favorite with the men under his supervision, who not only recognize his ability, but realize the fact that he is working in their interests and that he will ask nothing of them that he himself is not willing to do. Mr. Burt has not confined his activities to this company, being a director and stockholder in the Advance Pump and Compressor Company since its organization, and a stockholder in the Union Steam Pump Company of

Hosted by Google

Battle Creek. He is a popular member of the Elks lodge and the Athelstan Club.

Mr. Burt was married September 15, 1891, to Miss Georgia Haddock, daughter of the late George Wheeler Haddock, of Battle Creek, Michigan, a sketch of whom will be found in another part of this work. Her mother makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. Burt. Mrs. Burt was born in this city and educated here, is prominent in the work of the Women's League and the Women's Club, and is a favorite in social circles. Two sons have been born to her and her husband: Harold H., born in Saginaw, Michigan, October 9, 1892, educated in the public schools, the D. U. S., a boy's school of Detroit, and the Howe Military School, at Lima, Indiana, and is now attending the Michigan Business and Normal College of Battle Creek; and Robert C. born in Battle Creek, December 2, 1896, and now attending school here. The Burt home, situated at No. 143 Frelinghuysen avenue, is one of the most beautiful in the city, being of stucco and erected after the architecture of California homes, finished in mission. The family are worthy the precedence which is theirs in social life, exemplifying that innate refinement which dignifies and harmonizes the various associations of humanity.

GEORGE WHEELER HADDOCK. The life of a good and just man and the memory of his kindly, noble deeds, are in themselves his true biography. In the life of such an individual the observer of human character may find both precept and example. He may find in such a life sermons that speak more eloquently and leave a deeper impression upon the heart than any human words. The simple goodness and unconscious influence of such a man is a benediction to all with whom he comes in daily contact. Such were the attributes of the late George Wheeler Haddock, who, although only remembered by those of the older generation, was for a number of years engaged in business in Battle Creek, of which city he was a pioneer jewelry merchant. He was born at Griffens Mills, near Buffalo, New York, March 1, 1838, and came to Battle Creek in 1859, following the trade of carpenter and builder. During the winter of 1860 he returned to Buffalo, but the west called him back, and he returned to Battle Creek, then a city of three or four thousand inhabitants. After his return he clerked for Skinner & Decker, dry goods merchants, a short time, and while with them became interested in watch repairing and engraving. Entering the employ of Solomon Mapes, who ran what was then known as a jewelry shop in the window of Skinner & Decker's store, he mastered the trade, and in 1863 purchased a stock of jewelry goods and materials for repairing and embarked in business in the dry goods store of Clement Wakelee. In 1866 he was married to Miss Frances A. Cady, who came to this city from Rochester, New York, with her mother, Fanny H. Cady, and family, her mother buying and residing on the farm now called "Plumfield."

Mr. Haddock remained in the Wakelee store until 1871, when he went into partnership with N. A. Osgood, in the Riley Block, now occupied by the Central National Bank, and remained there until 1875, when ill health compelled him to retire from business. He was a great sufferer from that time until his death, and his infirmities prevented him from reengaging in active business, but his energetic spirit demanded some outlet and he was engaged until his death in buying and selling real estate, and in repairing and building up his own property. He was of a quiet, retiring disposition, loved by those who knew him best, of sterling honor and integrity in business dealings, a loyal husband and a stanch friend. He was a Royal Arch Mason, having joined the local order of Masons in 1859, and their principles were to him, if followed, the

Hosted by Google

highest guide of manhood. He died April 28, 1888, at his home, No. 69 Maple street, and was carried to his last rest, as he wished, by his brother Masons, the funeral being conducted at the grave according to Masonic ritual, the Rev. George F. Chipperfield officiating, and was largely attended. He was survived by his wife and one daughter, Georgia, who was married in 1891 to Harry E. Burt, of Battle Creek.

In 1899 the family home was bought by the public schools of Battle Creek, and the site is now occupied by the Willard Library. The old home was of interest as being one of the fine old Colonial mansions, built in 1850, by William Brooks, later owned by Chester Buckley, and purchased from his estate by Mr. Haddock.

LEWIS R. MEAD. The first line of business that was carried on in the history of the world was that of farming, and from then to the present day men have found it profitable to till the soil and to raise crops and breed stock upon it. Calhoun county is no exception to this rule, in that within its confines many of its leading citizens are found to be the owners of well-regulated farms, and in this class stands Lewis R. Mead, of Clarendon township, who has spent his entire life in Calhoun county. He was born in Clarendon township, on the farm of his father, January 3, 1862, and is a son of Franklin and Mary (Lewis) Mead, the former born in 1826 and the latter in 1832, natives respectively of New York and Calhoun county, Michigan. His grandfather, Timothy Mead, was a native of New York, and about the year 1835 or 1836 came to Calhoun county with his family, and here remained during the rest of his life. Franklin Mead received a district school education, was reared to agricultural pursuits, and continued to remain on the home place as his father's assistant until the latter's death, at which time he received his due share of the estate. He subsequently accumulated 127 acres of land, became very successful in a financial way, and at his death, in 1886, was one of his community's most highly esteemed citizens. A Republican in his political views, he served as highway commissioner for a number of years, and he and his wife were faithful members of the Free Will Baptist church. His wife was a daughter of Asa Lewis, a native of New York, who came to Michigan during the early 'thirties, and lived and died in Homer, where he successfully followed the milling business for many years. Mrs. Mead died in 1874.

The only child of his parents, Lewis R. Mead secured a district school education and then went to Hillsdale, where he attended school for two years. Returning to the farm of his father, he devoted himself to working thereon, but decided to strike out on his own account and accordingly rented a farm for two years. At the time of his father's death, however, he inherited a part of the old homestead, and at this time is cultivating sixty-seven acres. He is one of the progressive farmers of his locality and one who is steadily forging ahead. His business record is excellent, he has every reason to be proud of what he has accomplished, while his neighbors respect and honor him as an honest, reliable citizen.

In 1882 Mr. Mead was married to Miss Rosamond Chapin, daughter of Royal Chapin, a native of New York, who is now living in Burlington township, Calhoun county, and she died in 1895, in the faith of the Presbyterian Church, having been the mother of two children: Frank Lane, living in Albion, Michigan; and Mary F., living at home. In 1897 Mr. Mead was married to Miss Lillian Chapin, sister of his first wife, and they have two children: Stephen, who is attending school; and Earl Chapin. Mr. and Mrs. Mead are members of the

Hosted by Google

Presbyterian Church, and fraternally he is connected with Humanity Lodge No. 29, F. & A. M. and Chapter No. 130, at Homer, in which he has held office. In political matters he is a Republican, and has served as township treasurer, highway commissioner and justice of the peace, and in 1912 was elected a member of the board of supervisors, a position which he is acceptably filling at the present time.

LAMB BROTHERS. One of the best known and popular families of Clarence township is the Lamb family, composed of the three sons and four daughters of the late Isaac M. Lamb, who had been a resident of Calhoun county nearly seventy years and was a citizen held in high esteem. His sons Seward, Bert and Alger are agriculturists and all of that progressive type which recognizes the value of brains as well as brawn in successful farming and regard their vocation as a science and a business instead of a commonplace occupation. They stand representative of the best strength of Calhoun county's younger generation of native sons.

Isaac M. Lamb, born in New York in 1842, when but an infant came to Calhoun county, Michigan with his parents, who located in Sheridan township. There as a lad he received his education in the district schools. While still young he started out for himself as a farmer and located in Clarence township, where he bought an eighty acre farm. To this he added from time to time until at his death in 1909 he owned 240 acres, his attention having been given wholly to general farming. In politics he was a Republican, and fraternally he affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He saw two years of hard and active service in defense of the Union during the Civil war as a member of Company G, Seventh Michigan Cavalry, which regiment bore a gallant part at Gettysburg, participated in the Wilderness campaign, and during its service was in almost continuous activity, participating in many of the important engagements of the Eastern campaign. Daniel Lamb, the father of Isaac M., was born in New York and after a number of years' residence in Calhoun county finally returned to his native state, where he resided thereafter until his death. Isaac M. Lamb married Annette Huffman, whose father James Huffman spent his whole life in New York. She died in 1902. Eight children came to their union and the seven now living are all unmarried and remain at the parental home. In order of birth they are: Grace, Ida, Calista, Seward, Effie, Bert and Alger.

Seward Lamb, the eldest of the three sons, was born in Clarence township, Calhoun county, Michigan, on December 18, 1880. As previously mentioned, he has chosen farming as his vocation and is in every sense a progressive agriculturist. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and in politics is a Republican.

Bert Lamb, the second son, was born in Clarence township on December 15, 1886, and Alger, the youngest of the three, was born August 2, 1889. The brothers are associated together in the management of the home farm of 240 acres and besides general farming they give considerable attention to the breeding and raising of fine stock, especially of Shropshire sheep and Brown Swiss cattle, of which they have a fine large herd of imported stock. They are alert and resourceful young men who have shown good business ability in the management of their farming interests and stand at the fore among the most successful farmers of this section.

RALPH S. DOOLITTLE. The occupation of farming is a profitable one to those who know how to properly conduct their business, com-

Hosted by Google

bining the various branches of the industry to the best advantage. One of the leading farmers of Calhoun county, who has found that modern scientific farming, in place of the old hit-or-miss style, pays well, is Ralph S. Doolittle, the owner of a handsome farm of 160 acres in Clarendon township. Mr. Doolittle has been a resident of Calhoun county all his life, having been born at Clarendon, Michigan, March 9, 1872, and is a son of Augustus A. and Emma (Humeston) Doolittle.

Augustus A. Doolittle was born in Delaware county, New York, in 1830, and in 1836 came to Michigan with his parents, settling in Clarendon township, where he received a district school education. On completing his literary training, he started out on a business career with meager financial advantages and no influential friends, and the success which he gained in life was entirely the result of his tireless energy, inherent ability and strict integrity. He at first accumulated a small farm of ninety acres, but subsequently acquired his father's homestead, a tract of 160 acres, and later purchased a farm in Tekonsha, having in all about 450 acres of good land. His death occurred in Tekonsha, where he was held in the highest esteem by all who knew him. He and his wife, who was born in Homer township, Calhoun county, in 1843, had six children, all of whom are living, while Ralph S. is the fifth in order of birth. Irwin Doolittle resides in Tekonsha township; Dwight A., is a resident of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and the three sisters are living at the Tekonsha home. Politically a Republican, Mr. Doolittle held all the minor township offices, and at the time of his death, in 1900, left a record unmarred by stain or blemish.

Ralph S. Doolittle was educated in the district schools and the village schools of Tekonsha, and his business activities have always been devoted to agricultural pursuits. On starting out on his own account he had but little financial aid, but by the time he was twenty-seven years of age had his original purchase of eighty acres all paid for. He purchased his present farm of 160 acres in 1899, and this he has developed into one of the finest properties of its size in this part of the county, erecting a handsome residence and outbuildings and making an ideal country home.

In 1900 Mr. Doolittle was married to Miss Mae Harmon, daughter of John Harmon, who was born in Michigan and served in the Civil war. To this union there have been three children: Joy B., Stewart A. and Ralph, Jr. Mr. Doolittle is a Baptist in his religious belief, and during the past fifteen years has acted in the capacity of clerk of the Baptist church, while his wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal denomination. In political matters he is a Republican, and has served as supervisor for three years and as chairman of the board for one year. He was also a candidate for the office for county treasurer, but on account of political conditions at that time met with defeat. His popularity is assured among his fellow-townsmen, and he is known as a man who can be counted upon to support movements tending to progress, morality, education and good citizenship.

Jacob Lutz. On his eighty-acre farm in Newton township, Calhoun county, Michigan, Jacob Lutz is profitably engaged in diversified agriculture and the raising of high grade live stock. He is a citizen of prominence and influence in his home community and has represented Newton township in various official capacities of trust and responsibility. He has been highway commissioner and at the present time (1912) is holding the office of township treasurer, in which he has already proven his ability in that capacity.

Jacob Lutz was born November 8, 1866, in Washtenaw county, Michi-

Hosted by Google

gan, and he is a son of Michael and Mary (Mohardt) Lutz, both of whom were born in Wittenburg, Germany, in 1834 and 1836, respectively. The father immigrated to America in the year 1857, when he was a young man of twenty-three years of age. He came direct to Michigan and located in the vicinity of Ann Arbor, where he turned his attention to farming. He came to Calhoun county in the early '70s and settled in Fredonia township, subsequently purchasing a farm of forty acres in that township. Later he removed to Kent county where he resided for eleven years, at the end of which he came to Calhoun county, where he purchased a small place, and he continued to operate it until 1900, when he retired from active farm life and has since made his home with his children. His beloved wife passed away on October 3, 1898. They became the parents of children as follows: Fred; Michael, Jr., died June 1, 1911, in Newton township; Jacob of this review; Tina; Anna, Carrie and Addie. Michael Lutz is a Democrat in his political faith, and his churchly affiliations are maintained in the Lutheran church.

Under the sturdy and invigorating influence of the old home farm Jacob Lutz was reared to adult age. His educational training was obtained in the public school, and at the age of twenty-one he started out for himself as a farmer and thresher. In 1905 he purchased his first farm, consisting of eighty acres. His land is in a high state of cultivation and he ranks as one of the best informed farmers in Newton township. Mr. Lutz is a stalwart Democrat in his political convictions and was honored by his fellow citizens with election to the office of highway commissioner, being subsequently elected to the office of township treasurer, of which office he is still the incumbent in 1912.

In 1897 Mr. Lutz was united in marriage with Miss Cora Dekoger, a daughter of John and Martha (Young) Dekoger, who were residents of Grand Rapids, Michigan, where Mrs. Lutz was born, in 1876. Mr. and Mrs. Lutz are the parents of four children:—Glenn F., Neva G., Beulah Mae and Donald F., the names being here listed in the respective order of their birth.

Randall Z. Case. A Calhoun county citizen whose mundane existence began in the earlier half of the preceding century and who has rendered both military and pioneer service to this commonwealth is Mr. Randall Z. Case, former postmaster of Partello and retired farmer of Marshall. His place of nativity was a farm near Brockport, New York, and the date of his birth was September 7, 1840. When but a small child the exigencies of the farm were such that he, the eldest of five children, was necessarily required to assist with labors heavy and difficult for one so young. His memories of days spent in clearing land are still rendered vivid by the presence of a scar above his eye. The school opportunities of Randall Case were those of the primitive rural districts and were permitted during only a part of each year. The rough building in which he learned his "three r's" was located just a mile from Erie Canal. When his parents came to Lee township, in Calhoun county, Michigan, he was fifteen years of age, and from that time to the present, he has called this locality his home.

Mr. Case had barely attained the years of his majority when the smouldering opposition between the north and the south burst into the flames of war. In October of 1861, he laid aside his agricultural pursuits in order to contribute his share to the effort of the nation to preserve its integrity. Enlisting in Company H, of the Twelfth Michigan infantry, he was mustered in at Niles. With his regiment he went

Hosted by Google

southward, where he was actively engaged in the conflicts of Pittsburg Landing, Hatchies River and Middleburg, Tennessee. The siege of Vicksburg, that at Little Rock, Arkansas, and at Gregory's Landing were other engagements in which Mr. Case and his fellow-soldiers participated, besides lending their courageous efforts in other battles and skirmishes. On one occasion an incident occurred which proved to be serious indeed to Mr. Case. While he and his comrades were being conveyed by steamer from Duval's Bluff, Arkansas, they were fired at by rebels on shore, one of whom severely wounded with buckshot the left wrist of Mr. Case. His patriotic enthusiasm was such that he ignored the wound, landed with the others and assisted in the chase of the enemy—some of Thompson's guerillas—fourteen of the rebels being captured. During that exchange of hostilities Mr. Case was wounded by a bullet which grazed his right cheek. Unsparing of himself, he undertook and risked extreme privations and hardships, with the result that his none too robust and always overworked physique suffered obviously from the life of the battlefield and the camp. At various times he was obliged to temporarily succumb to illness, at one time spending six weeks in a hospital. In 1862 the young man was granted a furlough and was carried home in a greatly weakened and wasted condition. His former weight, which had been considerable for one engaged in heavy farm labor, had decreased through the strenuous experiences of the war until he weighed but ninety pounds. Ever ambitious and always anxious to minimize any indisposition, he rejoined his regiment in the fall of 1862. It was soon evident that his reserve force was insufficient to meet the demands made upon it. He was sent to the hospital at Cairo, where for three months he lay sick with typhoid malarial fever. When this period of illness was past, Mr. Case once more rejoined his regiment, remaining with them until the close of the war. Having served long and honorably, he was mustered out at Camden, Arkansas, in February, 1866, receiving his discharge papers and his pay on the sixth of the following March.

After his period of military experience was ended, Mr. Case returned to his father's farm, where he again devoted his energies to farm tasks. The following autumn he bought forty acres of land upon which he established himself and which he proceeded to clear. Having later purchased an adjacent tract of forty acres, he now is the possessor of eighty acres of land in a superior state of cultivation.

The year in which Mr. Case began his independent farming also marked the beginning of his domestic life with the worthy companion of his home. Mrs Case, nee Mary J. Forsyth, is a native of Ohio and a daughter of James Forsyth, an early settler of Lee township. Three children, named Edward E., Emma E. and Justus M., have comprised the second generation of the Randall Case home.

Mr. Case's attitude toward public affairs is indicated by the loyalty he has always shown toward the Republican party. His trustworthiness and ability in the administration of any affairs with which he is connected are recognized by his acquaintances, who have honored him with various civic responsibilities. In 1885 he served as a member of the County Board of Supervisors; in 1889 he accepted the office of township clerk; he has been efficient in his former capacity of school director; and he has recently discharged with faithfulness and wide discrimination the duties of school assessor. The most conspicuous honor that has come to him has been his appointment to the office of postmaster of Partello, his term in that position having been that which began with the year 1889. Since the termination of his services connected

Hosted by Google

with the postal department, he has retired to his present attractive home in Marshall, where he now resides.

Mr. Case's intelligent interest in practical matters is evident from his active membership in the order of the Patrons of Industry. His perennial patriotism is indicated by his prominence in the Grand Army Post, No. 256, at Partello, in which he has served both as Past Commander and as Adjutant.

HENRY B. WATERMAN. A representative of one of the honored pioneer families of Calhoun county, the late Henry B. Waterman was continuously a resident of Athens township, save for the exception of one year passed at Lockport, Illinois, from 1838 until his death, which occurred in the village of Athens, on the 1st of April, 1895. He well upheld the prestige of the family name and concerning the same and its long and prominent association with the history of the county adequate data are given in the memoir dedicated to his younger brother, Adolphus C., on other pages of this volume.

Henry B. Waterman was born in Yates county, New York, on the 22d of October, 1822, and thus was seventy-two years and five months of age at the time of his death. In the year following the admission of Michigan to the Union, he came with his parents, John B. and Betsy (Gleason) Waterman, to Athens township, this county, and he was at the time a lad of about sixteen years. He had secured his early educational discipline in his native county and after coming to Calhoun county he was for a time a student in the first school house built in Athens township, the same having been a primitive log structure of the type common to the pioneer days and having been situated in section 14. Mr. Waterman was a man of strong intellectual powers and these he developed and matured through careful and wide reading, through which he became a man of broad and varied information. He continued to be actively associated with the work and management of the old home farm, in section 13, Athens township, until after the death of his first wife, and thereafter he was engaged in the manufacturing of wagons and carriages. in the village of Athens, for a few years. He then removed to his farm, in section 14, northeast of the village, where he continued in the same line of enterprise, in connection with his farming operations. In the summer of 1874 he again established his home in the village of Athens, where he passed the residue of his life. He was a Democrat in politics and was well fortified in his opinions concerning public affairs. The following statements relative to this sturdy pioneer are worthy of perpetuation in this connection: "He was a great lover of outdoor sports, such as horse races, etc., and in his younger, as well as his latter years, was a hail fellow well met. He always enjoyed a visit from his neighbors, and the melodious strains of his violin and fife will always be pleasingly remembered by the company of his generation of years ago, and especially the strains of martial music to the soldier boys in blue."

Mr. Waterman was first married to Miss Lydia A. Woodworth, daughter of Erastus and Electa Woodworth, early settlers of this county, and four children were born of this union,—Dwight J., Bradley, Dorr and William B. All of these children are now deceased except Dorr and William B., who resides in Athens. Mrs. Waterman was summoned to eternal rest on the 28th of April, 1863,, at the age of thirty-three years, and in 1867 Mr. Waterman wedded Miss Celinda Wright, of LeRoy township. They became the parents of six children, namely: Lena, who is the wife of Vine Tenney; Lucy, who is the wife of Eugene Culp; Charles, who is a resident of Athens, Michigan; Fred who resides

Hosted by Google

at Battle Creek; Lottie, who is the wife of Frank Bruce and Minnie, who lives with her mother and brother at Athens.

ADOLPHUS C. WATERMAN. Measured by its definite achievement and its integrity of purpose the life of the late Adolphus C. Waterman counted for much, and the name of no one man has been more closely and benignantly associated with the development and upbuilding of the village of Athens, this county, than that of him to whom this memoir is dedicated. Quiet and unostentatious in bearing, he had much of independence in thought and action and wielded influence of no secondary order in the furtherance of civic and material progress in the village and county which represent his home for many years and in which he was a well known and honored pioneer citizen at the time of his demise. This publication may well take cognizance of his life and labors, as they constitute a very part of the history of Calhoun county.

On a farm four miles west of Penn Yan, Yates county, New York Adolphus Converse Waterman was born on the 14th of July, 1829. He was a son of John B. and Betsy (Gleason) Waterman, the former a native of Coventry, Rhode Island and the latter of Thompson, Connecticut, the homes of the respective families having been located in the same vicinity, near the boundary line between the two states mentioned. It is supposed that the marriage of the parents was solemnized in Connecticut and they resided for a number of years thereafter in Rhode Island, where three of their children were born. John B. Waterman, was a skilled mechanic and millwright and finally he removed with his family from Rhode Island to Yates county, New York. There he remained until 1837, when he came to the west and established his residence on Jackson Prairie, in Steuben county, Indiana. In 1839, about two years after the admission of Michigan to the Union, he came to Calhoun county, and here he rented, for a few years, a tract of land from Asahel Stone, whom he had known in the east. Finally he purchased a tract of eighty acres of wild land, two miles north of the present village of Athens, and there he continued to be identified with the great basic industry of agriculture until his death, which occurred January 19th, 1847. His wife survived him until April 28, 1863, and they lived up to the full tension of the pioneer era in the history of this section of Michigan. They became the parents of eight children, the eldest of whom, Louisa Maria, died in Yates county, New York; Benoni Cooke was a resident of Denver, Colorado, at the time of his death; Lucy Ann, who became the wife of William Hanson, died in Lockport, Illinois, as did also her brother John Gleason, who was the next in order of birth; Henry B., who died at Athens, is individually mentioned elsewhere in this work; Betsy was the widow of Elisha Wallace and died in Battle Creek; Adolphus C. is the immediate subject of this memoir; and George died in Steuben county, Indiana, when a child of three years.

Adolphus C. Waterman was about ten years of age when the family home was established in Calhoun county, and here he was reared to adult age under the conditions and influences of the pioneer days, his educational opportunities having been those afforded in the common schools of the locality and period. His was a specially receptive mind and through self-application, wide reading and close association with men and affairs in later years he became a man of broad mental ken and mature judgment. He had inherited much of the mechanical skill of his father and in 1848 he went to Lockport, Illinois, where he became associated with his brother John, who had taken the contract to build six sets of gates for six locks in the old Illinois and Michigan

Hosted by Google

canal. The father had intended to supervise the work, but his death caused the two sons to assume the responsibility. Adolphus C. Waterman was thus associated in the construction of two of the gates on the canal and remained at Lockport until 1850, when he and his brothers John and Benoni yielded to the lure incidental to the recent discovery of gold in California and joined the ranks of argonauts who were making their way across the plains to the New Eldorado. They crossed the Missouri river on the 2d of May, 1850, and after the long, weary and perilous journey arrived at Georgetown, California, on the 10th of July. Their supply of food became exhausted before they reached their destination and they endured their full quota of hardships and danger while en route. Adolphus C. Waterman went to the placer mines about three miles above Downieville, in Sierra county, and at a camp called Gold Bluff he turned his attention vigorously to the search for the precious metal. Early in the following spring his brother John returned to the east and in the autumn of 1851 the two remaining brothers came back to Michigan, bringing with them about ten thousand dollars, as the tangible result of their successful efforts in the quest for gold.

Soon after his return to Calhoun county Adolphus C. Waterman purchased of his father-in-law, Jonathan Guernsey, about two hundred acres of land, in Athens township, the property lying on both sides of what is now Main street in the village of Athens. On this land was erected the first house in the embryonic village, by Jonathan Guernsey and well may he be termed one of the founders of Athens. The fine old residence which he erected continued to be his home until his death and the property, together with much other real estate, is still owned by his widow and children. In the spring of 1852 Mr. Waterman married, and thereafter he devoted himself principally to agricultural pursuits for a number of years, within which he developed one of the valuable farms of the county, the village of Athens now occupying an appreciable portion of his old homestead place. He was essentially progressive and public spirited and his business acumen was emphatically shown when, in 1863, he dug a race, three-fourths of a mile in length, from Nottawa creek to a site in Athens, where he became associated with James Halbert in the erection of a flour mill for custom grinding. Two years later he purchased his partner's interest in the property and made the plant a merchant mill. As the owner of this old-time mill he developed a prosperous enterprise,—one that had important bearing in furthering the growth and industrial prosperity of Athens. The mill was long operated with buhr stones and later a full roller-process was installed. He continued in the milling business until the '90s, and the plant is still under successful operation, the old mill being now one of the landmarks of the southern part of Calhoun county and also a monument to the enterprise of its founder.

In 1901, though then venerable in years, Mr. Waterman began, with characteristic earnestness, the study of the application of cement blocks to architectural purposes, and in May, 1902, he filed application for a patent on a process of manufacturing such blocks, the patent having been granted on the 21st of July of the following year. While thus engaged in investigation and experimentation he perfected a device for the manufacturing of cement railroad ties, and on the same he eventually secured letters patent. As early as the '70s Mr. Waterman began his zealous labors to secure railroad facilities to his home village, and after having been indefatigable in his efforts and having thrice failed to secure the desired ends, he finally became the most influential factor in obtaining the construction of what is now known as the Bat-

Hosted by Google

tle Creek division of the Michigan Central Railroad. He was the first vice-president of the original company and had personal charge of the original survey, as well as the obtaining of much of the right of way. He platted the village of Athens and was ever untiring in his efforts to forward its upbuilding and its social and business prosperity. His name merits a place of enduring honor on the pages of the history of Calhoun county, and specially should his memory be held in high regard in the village for which he worked long and unselfishly, sacrificing his personal interests on many occasions for the general good.

Concerning John B. Waterman, father of the subject of this memoir, it may further be stated that he served with gallantry as a soldier in the war of 1812, as did his father, Benjamin, of Warwick, Rhode Island, born July 15, 1755, died March 23, 1829, His father was Col. John Waterman, of Old Warwick, Rhode Island, (near Rocky Point) who was born August 25, 1730, and died June 11, 1812. His father was Col. Benoni of Old Warwick, Rhode Island, born May 25, 1701, died November 3, 1780. He was the son of Captain John who was born in 1664 and died August 26, 1728. He descended from Resolved Waterman, born Salem, Massachusetts, July, 1638, died at Providence, Rhode Island, August, 1670. His wife was Mercy, the youngest daughter of the Rev. Roger and Mary Williams. The record starts with his father, Col. Richard Waterman who was born in England about 1590 and came to America in "Higginson's Fleet," landing in Salem, Massachusetts, Monday, June 29, 1629. He was one of the original founders of the towns of Providence and Warwick, Rhode Island, after being banished from Massachusetts, because he was adjudged to be "erroneous, heretical and obstinate." He died October 26, 1673, and was buried on his own land in Providence on what is now the southeast corner of Benefit and Waterman streets. When the family came to Michigan the journey from Buffalo to Toledo was made by way of a vessel on Lake Erie, and from Toledo the trip was continued to Adrian over the line of the first railroad constructed in Michigan, the same having been equipped with strap rails of iron, laid on wooden leaders, and the primitive cars having been propelled by horses. John B. Waterman proceeded from Adrian, with team and wagon, to Jackson township, Steuben county, Indiana, and came in the following year to Athens township, Calhoun county, Michigan, where he passed the residue of his life, on his farm in section 13.

Mr. Waterman was reared in the faith of the Democratic party and cast his first presidential vote in support of President Franklin Pierce. He ever kept in close touch with the questions and issues of the hour and finally became a reader of the *New York Tribune,* of which Horace Greeley was then the editor. He voted for Greeley in 1872 and for a time he attempted to reconcile his views with the principles and policies of the Republican party, but, finding this impossible, he finally held himself aloof from strict partisan ties and gave his support to men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment. Adolphus C. Waterman died in the Nichols Memorial Hospital, in the city of Battle Creek, on the 20th of June, 1907, and his name and deeds shall not soon be forgotten in the county which was his home during virtually his entire adult life.

On the 10th of March, 1852, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Waterman to Miss Sarah E. Guernsey, who was born at Gorham, Ontario county, New York, and who was a child at the time of the family removal to Calhoun county, Michigan. She is the only surviving child of the late Jonathan Guernsey, one of the honored pioneers of the county and one to whom special reference is made elsewhere in this pub-

Hosted by Google

lication, so that further review of the family history is not demanded in the present connection. Mrs. Waterman was reared and educated in Athens township and her dearest memories center about the old home in which she lived continuously for sixty-five years, in the village of Athens, except two years in LeRoy township. Since the death of her husband she has resided with her two surviving children, in a comfortable home in Battle Creek, and here she is accorded the tenderest of filial solicitude, to which her gentle and gracious character and loving care in former years well entitle her, the writer of this article having had in his youth the privilege of knowing her well and having retained deep appreciation of her talent and charming personality. Mr. and Mrs. Waterman became the parents of three children, concerning whom the following data are given in conclusion of this memoir: Arthur G., was born in LeRoy township, this county, on the 15th of December, 1854, and after due preliminary discipline he entered Hillsdale College in which he pursued higher academic studies. He then entered the law department of the University of Michigan, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1875. For the last fourteen years of his life he was a representative member of the bar of the city of Chicago, and there his death occurred on the 15th of March, 1907,—about three months prior to the death of his father, the remains of both being interred in the cemetery at Athens. Arthur Guernsey Waterman was a man of most genial personality, of marked business ability and excellent professional attainments. He had a host of friends, and ever retained deep interest in the old home town in which his childhood and youth were passed. John Benoni Waterman, the second son, is individually mentioned on other pages of this work. Miss Grace E. Waterman, who resides with her mother and brother in the pleasant home, at 93 North avenue, Battle Creek, was born and reared in Athens, where she gained her early education, which was supplemented by a course in the Michigan Business and Normal College, in Battle Creek. She now holds a responsible position in the advertising department ot the Central National Bank of this city, and is a popular factor in the social circles of the community.

JOHN B. WATERMAN. It is not often that the writer has the privilege of super-imposing his burden of diction upon the devoted head of so tried a friend of his youth as he to whom this sketch is dedicated, and it is difficult to subordinate, as must needs be, somewhat sentimental and entirely gracious memories to the mere statement of fact. Mr. Waterman is a native son of Calhoun county and a scion of one of its sterling pioneer families. He is a son of the late Adolphus C. Waterman, to whom a tribute is accorded on other pages of this work, as is also a memoir to his maternal grandfather, Jonathan Guernsey, so that further data concerning the family history are not required at the present juncture. He now holds the responsible position of chief clerk in the collection department of the great manufacturing establishment of the Nichols & Shepard Company of Battle Creek, and resides with his mother and sister in an attractive home at 93 North avenue.

John Benoni Waterman was born in the old homestead, at the corner of Main and Burr Oak streets, in the village of Athens, this county, and the date of his nativity was March 2, 1865. He gained his early education in the public schools of his native town, where he attended the high school, as did he also that at Union City, Branch county. In 1885 he was graduated in the Parsons Business College, in the city of Kalamazoo, and in the meanwhile he had received excellent musical advantages, through the medium of which he had developed

Hosted by Google

his specially high talent along this line. In 1887 he obtained a position in the Aberdeen National Bank, at Aberdeen, South Dakota, where he remained for seven years and where he rose to the position of teller in the institution. For three years thereafter he held a responsible executive position with the private banking house of S. R. Culp & Son, in his native village, and in July, 1899, he assumed a clerical position in the offices of the Nichols & Shepard Company, with which extensive concern he has since continued to be identified and with which he now holds the office of chief clerk in the collection department.

Mr. Waterman is a bachelor but this fact does not in the least militate against his popularity in the business, social and musical circles of his home city. While a resident of Aberdeen, South Dakota, he served as organist of St. Marks church, Protestant Episcopal, of which he became a communicant, and he has since continued active in musical work. He is a specially talented pianist and organist and was musical director of St. Thomas' church, Protestant Episcopal, in Battle Creek for five years, since which time, and for a period of six years, he has held a similar position in the First Baptist church. He is affiliated with the Battle Creek Lodge No. 131 of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks and also holds membership in the Athelstan Club, the while his circle of friends in Battle Creek and elsewhere is coincident with that of his acquaintances.

JONATHAN GUERNSEY. A publication of the province assigned to the one at hand exercises a most important function when it takes recognition of the life and services of such sterling pioneer citizens as was the late Jonathan Guernsey, who was an honored and influential figure in the civic and industrial development of Athens township nearly sixty-five years ago and who passed the closing years of his life in the village of Athens, where he died on the 18th of March, 1868. He was a direct descendant of Lord Guernsey of England. Of his immediate family the only surviving member is Mrs. Sarah E. Waterman, who is now a resident of Battle Creek and who is the widow of Adolphus C. Waterman, subject of a specific memoir entered on other pages of this volume.

The genealogical record of the Guernsey family is one of most interesting order and touches most closely the annals of American development and progress. He whose name initiates this article was born at Watertown, Litchfield county, Connecticut, on the 31st of August, 1801. His father, Southmayd Guernsey, was likewise a native of Watertown, Connecticut, where he was born on the 10th of April, 1763, and this sterling patriot, a man of noteworthy ability, was a resident of the village of Athens, Michigan, at the time when he was summoned to eternal rest, on the 4th of April, 1850, his remains being interred in the North Sherwood cemetery, in the adjoining county of Branch. It was his to render valiant service as a boy soldier in the war of the Revolution, as he enlisted in a regiment of Connecticut troops when but thirteen years of age. He had his full quota of arduous and hazardous service in the great conflict for national independence and proved himself a loyal and patriotic soldier, though a mere youth at the time when he received his honorable discharge. He applied for and received a pension in 1849. His discharge papers constitute a valuable and interesting family heirloom. The youthful soldier had frequently seen General Washington, General Lafayette and other great men of the Continental line and of national repute. After Major Andre had been captured as a spy and had been incarcerated in an old church, one of his guards, who was a friend of Southmayd Guernsey, permitted the latter

Hosted by Google

to peep through a keyhole to see the youthful prisoner. In later years Mr. Guernsey frequently stated that he had never seen a finer looking man than the unfortunate young officer and he always regretted his sad fate, though realizing that the same was justified from the standpoint of the ethics of warfare.

The grandfather of Southmayd Guernsey was one of two brothers who immigrated from the Isle of Guernsey, in the English channel, and established their residence in Connecticut in the year 1635. The birthplace of Southmayd Guernsey, in Watertown, Connecticut, is still known as Guernsey Hill, and the property has been in the possession of the family continuously since 1735. Southmayd Guernsey wedded Miss Sabra Scott, a daughter of Dr. Barnabas Scott, and finally, in company with his wife and their six children, he removed to Gorham, Ontario county, New York, where he purchased a very considerable tract of land and where he continued to maintain his home until the death of his devoted wife, in 1836. He then came to Michigan to live with his children, and as already stated, he passed the closing period of his life at Athens, Calhoun county,—one of the comparatively few Revolutionary soldiers ever residents of this county. He was a man of much inventive and mechanical genius and personally manufactured the tools with which to complete certain parts of his house, which he erected himself. He well merited the description of a typical Yankee as given by Rev. John Pierpont: "'Make it,' said I? 'Aye, if he undertake it, he'll make the thing and the machine that makes it.'"

Southmayd Guernsey was the son of Jonathan and Desire (Bronson) Guernsey, and his descent from John Guernsey, one of the two brothers who came to America from the Isle of Guernsey, as already noted, is here briefly indicated: Family tradition holds that upon coming to the new world John Guernsey settled at Milford, New Haven county, Connecticut. Joseph, supposed to have been the son of John, the founder of the line, married, in the year 1673, Hannah, daughter of Samuel Coley, Sr., and their son Joseph wedded Elizabeth Disbrow, of Horseneck, after whose death he contracted a second marriage, the personal name of his second wife having been Eleanor but her family name being unrecorded in the family records: they lived at Milford. Deacon Jonathan Guernsey, the next in order of descent to the Guernseys of Calhoun county, Michigan, was wedded, in 1724 or 1725, to Abigail, daughter of Samuel Northrop, of Milford. Thereafter he lived in that section of Waterbury which is now known as Watertown, and the immediate locality is still designated at Guernseytown. His son Jonathan was born at Milford, in 1729, and on the 5th of June, 1755, married Desire, a daughter of Joseph Bronson: their son Southmayd was born in 1763, and the latter's wife, whose maiden name was Sabra Scott, as previously stated in this context, was born on the 14th of January, 1766, she having been a daughter of Dr. Barnabas Scott and Rebecca (Warner) Scott. The latter was a daughter of Dr. Ephraim Warner, a son of John and Esther (Richards) Warner. Esther Richards Warner was a daughter of Obadiah and Hannah (Barnes) Richards and her father was a son of Thomas Richards, of Hartford, Connecticut. Dr. Barnabas Scott was a son of Obadiah and Mary (Andrus) Scott, whose marriage was solemnized May 30, 1733, and the latter of whom was a daughter of John Andrus. Obadiah Scott was a son of David and Sarah (Richards) Scott, the last named having been a daughter of Obadiah and Hannah (Barnes) Richards. David Scott was a son of Edmund Scott. The Guernsey and allied families were prominent in connection with industrial, religious and general civic activities in the early days in New England, that cradle of much of our

Hosted by Google

national history, and it is gratifying to be able to give even the brief genealogical record here entered.

Jonathan Guernsey, who was the father of Mrs. Sarah E. Waterman, of Battle Creek, came to Michigan in September, 1848, and settled where the village of Athens, Calhoun county, is now situated. There he became the owner of a landed estate of two hundred acres, and the major part of the same he reclaimed from the wilderness, there having been no buildings and few other improvements on the property at the time when it came into his possession. His only surviving child, Mrs. Waterman, retains of this original homestead an entire village block in Athens, save only one lot.

In 1819, at Gorham, Ontario county, New York, was solemnized the marriage of Jonathan Guernsey to Miss Betsey Blakeslee, who was born at Bethlehem, Massachusetts, and she passed the closing three years of her life in LeRoy township, Calhoun county, where she died in 1854. Adolphus C. Waterman purchased of his father-in-law, Jonathan Guernsey, the old farm in Athens township and the latter then bought a half section of land in LeRoy township, where he continued to be actively identified with agricultural pursuits until after the death of his wife. He finally sold this property and returned to the village of Athens, where he lived retired until the close of his long and useful life, his death having occurred on the 18th of March, 1868, as has been previously noted in this article. He and his noble wife were numbered among the representative pioneers of Calhoun county and their names merit enduring place in its history. Jonathan Guernsey was a staunch Democrat in his political proclivities but would never consent to become the incumbent of public office, though he was eminently fitted for such positions of trust. At one time he was elected justice of the peace in Athens township, but he would not qualify for the office. He was a staunch abolitionist during the climacteric period leading up to the Civil war and was a man whose impregnable integrity and marked ability gained and retained to him the inviolable confidence and esteem of his fellowmen. He was a charter member of Athens Lodge, No. 220, Free & Accepted Masons, and his funeral was held under Masonic auspices.

Jonathan and Betsey (Blakeslee) Guernsey became the parents of three children,—J. Mavor, Scott and Sarah E. The two sons married and reared children, but all are now deceased, so that Sarah E., widow of Adolphus C. Waterman, is the only survivor of the immediate family. Mrs. Waterman well recalls the scenes and incidents of the pioneer days in Calhoun county and has stated that at the time when her parents established their home on the site of the present attractive little village of Athens the spot was marked only by oak grubs, the present beautiful trees in the village having grown within her recollection and those about her own old homestead being specially large and attractive, as the writer of this article has reason to recall from numerous visits to the fine old home. The village and the home are endeared to Mrs. Waterman by many hallowed memories and associations, and though she now resides with her two children in the city of Battle Creek, she reverts often and tenderly to the old home and finds gratification in the fact that the near proximity of Athens enables her to make frequent visits there. Concerning her husband individual mention is made on other pages of this volume, in which also appears a brief review of the career of her only surviving son, John B. Waterman.

HENRY ALLEN WHITNEY. Some of the oldest and most distinguished strains of New England blood are united in the Whitney family of

Hosted by Google

Battle Creek, whose ancestors of the more recent generations were also pioneers in Michigan. Henry Allen Whitney, the senior of this connection, who resides at 70 Cherry street, Battle Creek, came originally from Rhode Island. He was born in Providence, November 6, 1832. His wife, the late Mrs. Anna E. B. Whitney, came from New Hampshire, and her people were prominent in that state and in Vermont. In many lines of endeavor and in public and private life the representative of these relationships have distinguished themselves and have borne honorable names among their fellowmen.

Henry Allen Whitney was a son of Leonard and Charlotte S. (Allen) Whitney. The paternal grandfather, Nathan Whitney, was a resident of Westminster, Massachusetts, and at one time was an extensive land owner. On account of his services in the state militia he was quite generally known as Captain Whitney. Leonard Whitney, father of Henry Allen Whitney, was born in Worcester county, Mass., about 1808. He was engaged in the manufacture of woodenware in Providence when he met and fell in love with the young lady who became his wife. She was born in Providence 1809 and resided there until her marriage. After their union, Mr. and Mrs. Whitney struck out for the west, locating at Niles, Mich., in 1836, and being numbered among the earliest residents of that community.

There Mr. Whitney was interested in a chair factory, which he conducted for some time. Subsequently he removed to Dowagiac, and also followed manufacturing there. He spent his declining days at St. Joseph, following fruit farming, for which the neighborhood is noted. He took great interest in horticulture, and it was to him a pleasure as well as an occupation. He was everywhere known as Deacon Whitney, having always served in that capacity in the Congregational church, in every community in which he lived. He also served as township treasurer in Lincoln township, near St. Joseph, filling that position for many years. He died in 1880, many years after the demise of his wife.

Henry Allen Whitney was a little lad of only four years when he was brought by his parents to Michigan in the early days. He received his rudimentary education in the primitive schools of that time, and in reaching his majority set about learning the trade of a painter and decorator in Battle Creek. He later had charge of the furniture store of Henry Gilbert and others, acting in that capacity for about ten years. A part of that time the business was conducted under the name of Mr. Whitney.

During this period of his business activities Mr. Whitney was elected alderman from the Fourth Ward. He became City Recorder for four years during one of the busiest periods of the city's history. It was during this time that the waterworks, the street car system and the electric lighting system were installed, putting Battle Creek on a plane with other metropolitan communities. For four successive terms Mr. Whitney was elected Recorder, always on the Republican ticket. His father had been a noted Abolitionist, and his own sympathies in early life were with this movement. Upon the organization of the Republican party he at once affiliated with it and his allegiance to its tenets has never wavered. He has consistently supported the nominees of his party and his own political activities have been consistently under its auspices. He went over Berrien county, Mich., in the interests of the first Republican paper published in that county, it being known as the *Niles Inquirer,* and owned by Mr. Carlton, of Niles.

Following his service in the Recorder's office Mr. Whitney was elected County Superintendent of the Poor for three terms, covering a

Hosted by Google

period of nine years. The following years, on account of the fusion of forces of three or four other political divisions, the Republicans failed to carry the county. Mr. Whitney was out of office for one term. He was then re-elected Recorder for the term of 1898-9, and after three years was again chosen Superintendent of the Poor, so that now he is serving his 21st year, or will be in January, 1913.

No more capable official has ever occupied this important position, according to those who have full opportunity for observation and who are cognizant of all the circumstances. For over 17 years he was county agent of the State Board of Corrections and Charities, and upon him devolved the care of all juvenile offenders in the county, as well as a supervisors interest in the orphans who came under the care of the state. It was his province to pass judgment upon the homes of those who sought to adopt children, in order to guard against the latter falling into the wrong hands. He was the second man to hold this position under the state law governing that branch of eleemosynary work.

When Mr. Whitney came to this county from Niles in 1863 he first canvassed for Richie's steel engraving of Carpenter's painting, made in the White House, Washington, D. C., of President Lincoln and his Cabinet, and Carpenter's steel engraving of Washington and his Cabinet. This gave him a wide acquaintance and when he embarked in the furniture business later he had the friendship of a large number of people. This furniture business was later purchased by Ranger & Farley and Mr. Farley is today running the same establishment. Mr. Whitney does not have charge of juvenile offenders now, but is confining his attention to the supervision of the poor.

On September 11, 1860, Henry Allen Whitney was married to Miss Anna E. Bellows, of Climax, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, a daughter of William Edway Bellows, who removed to this vicinity from Bellows Falls, Vermont, in 1836. It was for this family, as may readily be conjectured, that the Vermont city was named. Mr. Bellows was a cousin of Doctor Bellows, who became prominent in connection with the sanitary commission during the Civil war, and who was a representative of a famous old New England family. Mrs. Whitney was born in New Hampshire in 1834, and came to Climax with her parents when she was four years old. There was a large family of children. Prof. Bellows and Mrs. Garrett Decker were brother and sister of Mrs. Whitney. The professor was at the head of the department of mathematics at the State Normal at Ypsilanti for twenty-four years, and he was the organizer of the Central State Normal School at Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

Mrs. Whitney passed away on July 6, 1905, at her home in Battle Creek and is buried in Oak Hill cemetery. She was a bright, intellectual woman, a teacher in the Sunday school for many years, and interested in all departments of church work. She was a school teacher first at Climax, then at Kalamazoo, Augusta, Niles and Pawpaw, Mich. Mrs. Whitney attended Olivet College in her youth and later graduated from Albion College. She and her husband were blessed with five children, of whom four are living. The deceased one is T. Schuyler, a son, who died on February 11, 1911. Those surviving are Kate W., Harlan K., Rose M., and Lavinia V. Miss Rose is a graduate of the University of Michigan and previous to her matriculation at that institution she attended the State Normal at Ypsilanti. She taught in High school five years in Coldwater and five years at Pontiac and at Adrian high school where her health broke down. Miss Lavinia attended the state normal for two years and took a teacher's diploma in music. All of the living children are graduates of the Battle Creek High

Hosted by Google

School and all were born in this city except the eldest daughter, who was born in Niles.

Mr. Whitney and all of his children are members of the Presbyterian church and are active in church work. Mr. Whitney was one of the charter members of Security Lodge, A. O. U. W., and for ten years was its financier. He was also a member of the National Union and officiated and is now its secretary, having been secretary over twenty years. He has been local treasurer for the Standard Savings and Loan Association, of Detroit, Mich., for a decade and is regarded as one of the most conscientious, upright and honorable citizens of his home community.

HARLAN K. WHITNEY. From the very beginning of time the art of the engineer has existed. When it became necessary for man to construct habitations, to lay out highways or bridge chasms, then the science of engineering had its inception—born from man's necessity. And it is today just as necessary, as the railroads are driven through mountains or across morasses, or the waters are pent up in flood season that they may refresh the soil in dry periods, where buildings rear their cobwebs of steel or subways burrow through rock to give man more room for transit, there the busy engineer is to be found, doing today in perfected form what earlier members of the calling did more crudely and against greater disadvantages, but none the less accurately.

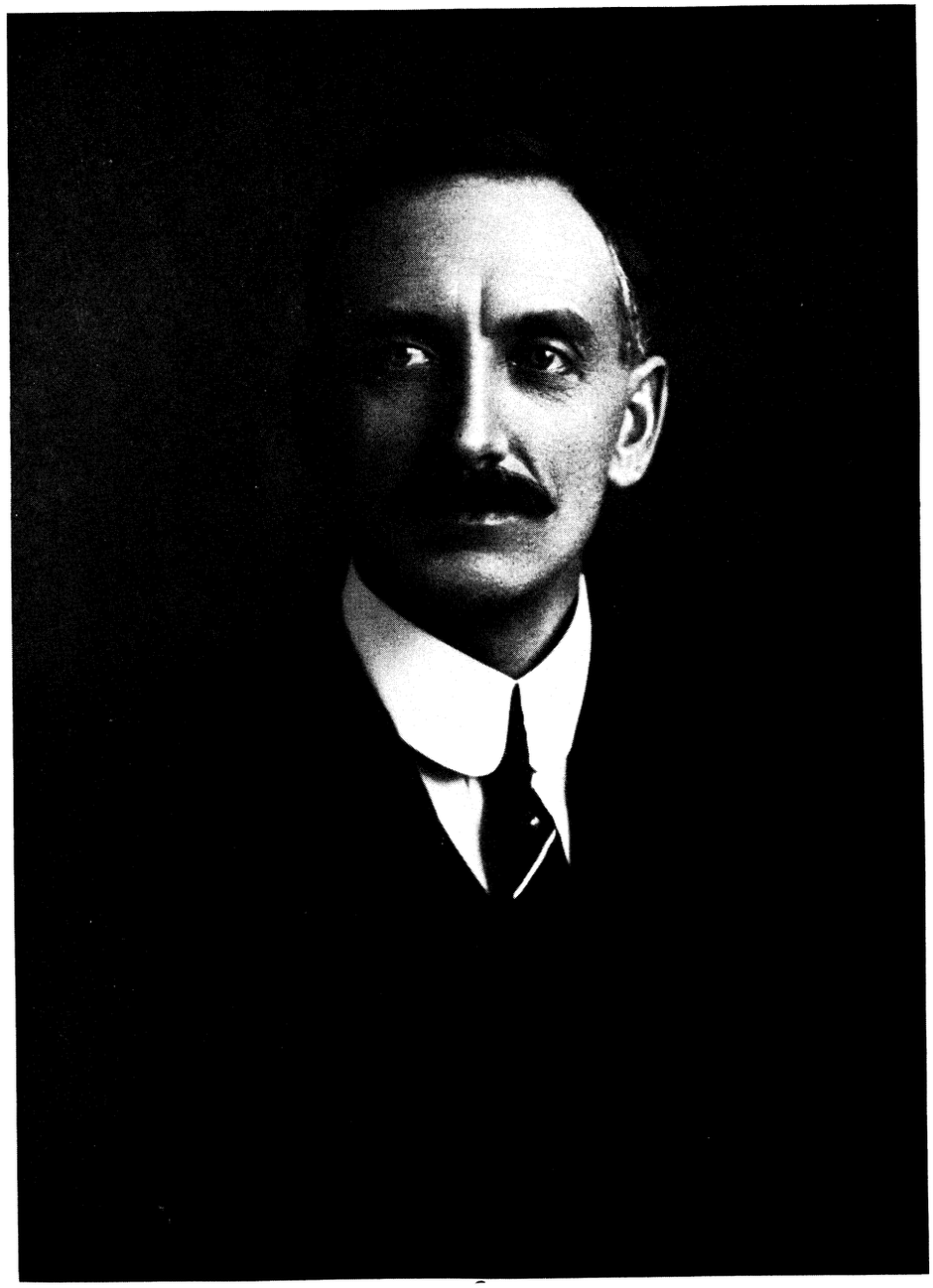
Engineering is the science of exactness. Mistakes may be made in some of the professions, and amended or overlooked, but in engineering the least error is soon glaringly apparent. Every foot of property in city or country depends upon the word of some engineer. The angle of elevation on the outside rail of a curve that carries the flying train in safety around the bend without hurling the passengers off at a tangent is calculated by some engineer, when the walls of tunnels that have for years been driven toward each other from opposite sides of a granite mountain, unite smoothly and exactly it is another triumph for the keen eye and the trained mind of the engineer.

A worthy present day prototype of the master minds who have accomplished so much in this direction is Harlan K. Whitney, of Battle Creek, who was born in this city, December 6, 1864, a son of Henry A. and Anna E. (Bellows) Whitney, of whom a separate sketch appears elsewhere in this work. Harlan K. Whitney graduated from the Battle Creek High School in the class of 1883 and afterward spent two years as a member of the engineering force of this city and on the Board of Public Works. During this period—1891-2 he gave close attention to civil engineering and surveying. On May 1, 1893, he started in business with John Elsmere under the firm name of Elsmere & Whitney, surveyors and civil engineers, with offices in the Upton Block.

Their partnership continued for one season, being dissolved during the winter of 1893-4. Mr. Whitney continued the business and soon secured a patronage that was of large proportions and constantly increased. In 1895 he entered the engineering department of the University of Michigan and spent a year there, perfecting himself in his chosen profession. He has given especial attention to land surveying and the platting development and beautification of cities and residence sections, and has since that time followed this line, his headquarters being at Battle Creek, but his work extending through the states. He has been called as far south as Alabama, his work in the latter place being on a cement factory proposition.

For two years Mr. Whitney filled the position of city engineer for the City of Albion, during which time the first triple-arch concrete

Hosted by Google



Harlan K. Whitney

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

bridge with steel reinforcement ever constructed in the United States was built at Albion, Mich., under his supervision. He at the same time conducted the general city work for Albion and also looked after his business at Battle Creek. He laid out a plan for a sewer system for Albion, which included the business section, and superintended the construction of a portion of the district.

He also was acting county surveyor for two years, during which time he planned and supervised the building of three miles of narrow gauge railroad for the Peerless Portland Cement Company at Union City, Mich. Especial attention has been given by Mr. Whitney to the platting of cities and their subdivisions. He has platted over 1,000 acres of land. He laid out the grounds and walks for the Phelps Sanatorium, which was one of the first pieces of landscape gardening in this part of Michigan. Artistic platting particularly appeals to him and he readily recognizes the possibilities of a piece of ground and utilizes it to the best advantage.

Mr. Whitney's activities extend to all branches of his profession. He is chief engineer for the proposed Battle Creek and Grand Rapids Electric Road and the Kalamazoo, Gull Lake and Northern. He has kept up his local and general work at all times and is never too busy to give prompt service to his customers. He keeps two experienced engineers on his staff at all times, and frequently increases the force to a material extent, four being the usual number. He was assistant city engineer for about three months during the period when the Maple street pavement was put in. He was also engineer for the Post Land Company and held many other important commissions that might with justice be enumerated. He and Col. Jacobs have had offices in the Ward building since the first of November, 1905. Mr. Whitney is unmarried and resides at the old family home at No. 70 Cherry street.

He is by no means so engaged with business and professional affairs that he neglects more important duties of church and society. He is a member of the First Presbyterian church and one of its most earnest and zealous communicants. He is an elder and was clerk of the session for about six years. The Sunday school department finds in him a warm supporter, and has for many years. He was secretary of the Board for a while and is now leader of the men's class in the Sunday school. He was one of the founders of the Y. M. C. A. of Battle Creek, was on its first directorate and during the first year or so attended to the important duties of recording secretary. From the age of his majority Mr. Whitney has always been a stanch supporter of the Prohibition party, and is at present identified with the Progressive movement. He was a member of the Battle Creek Country Club the first two years of its existence, and has long been a member of the Michigan Engineering Society.

MARTIN H. GOODALE. One of the substantial and well ordered enterprises lending to the commercial precedence of the metropolis of Calhoun county is that conducted by the Helmer-Goodale Drug Company, which conducts both a wholesale and retail business. Of this corporation Mr. Goodale is now the executive head, and he has been long and prominently identified with the drug business in Battle Creek, where he is known and honored as a loyal and progressive citizen and enterprising business man.

Martin H. Goodale claims the historic old Western Reserve of Ohio as the place of his nativity and is a scion of one of the sterling families of that favored section of the Buckeye state. He was born at Warren, the judicial center of Trumbull county, Ohio, on the 28th of October,

Hosted by Google

1861, and is the only child of Ebenezer H. and Mary H. (Welch) Goodale, the former of whom was born at Glastonbury, Connecticut, and the latter at Warren, Ohio, where their marriage was solemnized. The father was a carpenter by trade and became a successful contractor and builder in Trumbull county, Ohio, where both he and his wife continued to reside until their death. He whose name initiates this review is indebted to the public schools of his native place for his early educational discipline, and as a youth of sixteen years he first came to Michigan. For a period of about four years he was employed on the farm of William Brown, one of the old and representative citizens of Pennfield township, Calhoun county, and later found employment in a drug store in Battle Creek, in which city he established his home when he was twenty-six years of age, having in the meanwhile passed a portion of the intervening period in Ohio. For one year he was a student in the Hahnemann Homeopathic Medical College, in the city of Chicago, and he then returned to Battle Creek, where he learned the drug business in the establishment of the late John Helmer with whom he continued to be associated for about ten years. Finally, in 1901, he opened the Post Tavern Pharmacy, in the fine hotel building erected in Battle Creek by Colonel C. W. Post, and this he conducted under the firm name of H. M. Goodale & Company until he sold the stock and business to Frank L. McClintock, the present owner. Prior to establishing this enterprise Mr. Goodale had purchased the bankrupt drug business of Parker Brothers, and the enterprise was continued under the title of Wheaton & Goodale until sold to the present proprietor, Sidney Erwin. For a period of eighteen months Mr. Goodale was a traveling representative for the wholesale drug establishment of Nelson & Baker, of Detroit, and on the 21st of December, 1908, he became one of the interested principals in the organization of the Helmer-Goodale Drug Company. His partner, John Helmer, died on the 27th of April, 1911, and since that time the practical management of the business has been maintained by Mr. Goodale, whose thorough technical knowledge and distinctive administrative ability have been the forces which have developed the enterprise into one of most substantial order. They also maintain two branch stores, one at Bellevue and one at Climax, Michigan. Mr. Goodale is secretary of the Michigan State Pharmaceutical Association, of which position he has been the incumbent since 1910, and he is also identified with American Pharmaceutical Association and the National Association of Retail Druggists. He has attended the conventions of the latter organization and was a member of its auditing committee in 1911. Mr. Goodale is a stockholder and director of the Tampa-Cuba Cigar Company, of Tampa, Florida, and has local capitalistic interests aside from those involved in his drug business.

Broad-minded and public-spirited as a citizen, Mr. Goodale manifests a lively interest in all that touches the welfare of his home city, and while he has never had any predilection for public office he is a stalwart supporter of the cause of the Republican party. He is affiliated with A. T. Metcalf Lodge, No. 419, Free & Accepted Masons, and also with the local organizations of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, the Knights of Pythias and the Order of Moose, in which last mentioned he has served two terms as dictator. He and his wife are communicants of the Protestant Episcopal church and are active in the affairs of the parish of St. Thomas' church. The drug establishment of the Helmer-Goodale Drug Company is located at 9 East Main street, and the attractive home of Mr. Goodale is at 41 Post avenue.

On the 15th of January, 1892, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Goodale to Miss Zulla Wheaton, daughter of Hon. Robert D. Wheaton,

Hosted by Google

a representative citizen of Charlotte, Eaton county, Michigan, where he served as mayor and where he was a prominent and influential factor in public affairs for many years prior to his death, his widow still maintaining her home in Charlotte. Mr. and Mrs. Goodale have one daughter, Elizabeth, who was born in Battle Creek and who remains at the parental home.

OLIVER CLARK JOHNSON. In the honorable roll of those life-long residents of Calhoun county who have done so much for the development of its resources, and among the worthy sons of pioneer families of this region we number among the foremost Mr. Oliver Clark Johnson, whose father and maternal grandfather were both noted pioneers of the region. The latter, Hasel White, was a native of New Jersey (born August 16, 1775) a soldier in the War of 1812, later a farmer in New York state and subsequently a settler on Government land which he bought in Marengo township and developed into an excellent farm. A Democrat and an ardent Methodist, his strong individuality left its stamp on the community. It was his daughter, Miss Mary Ann White—born in Montgomery county, New York, on January 16, 1809, and died, aged 89 years, who was the wife of Corren G. Johnson.

Corren Johnson was a native of Onondaga county, the date of his birth being January 26, 1806. He was a young man when in 1831 he located on section 17, Marengo township. Mrs. Johnson ably assisted her husband in the difficult task of making a home in those wilds, and her friends of today greatly value her recollections of that primitive era nearly three quarters of a century ago. Her husband was throughout his life a prominent personality in the community, to which he contributed much in civic, social and religious lines of activity. Politically, he was a sound Democrat. He was for two terms called upon to serve Marengo township in the capacity of supervisor, or assessor, as the office was then called. As a member of the Christian church, he was energetic and consistent in promoting its cause. When his death occurred in January, 1858, all Marengo township acknowledged the great loss they realized in the passing of so useful and capable citizen.

His son, Oliver Clark Johnson, began his earthly existence on the farm above referred to, on the fifteenth day of March, 1838. With the growth of the region which has always been his home, he has kept a steady pace, becoming identified with all its movements for better prosperity and higher standards. His education has been such as was possible under the primitive conditions of his childhood, supplemented by his practical use of opportunities which have come his way for further broadening. His youthful training in farm industry was of the greatest value in his actual life, for he has proved himself a worthy son of his father.

Mrs. Oliver Clark Johnson also comes of a pioneer family, having formerly been Miss Catherine Elizabeth Ackerson, a daughter of Edward Ackerson, who was a native of New Jersey and long a resident of Marshall township, Michigan. His death occurred here in 1889 and his remains were interred in the cemetery which had been his own gift to the township. Mrs. Johnson thus shares her husband's prestige as a representative of the first families of the section.

The Johnson home consists of one hundred and seventy-five acres of choice land in fine condition. Its state of cultivation is superior, its barns roomy and well-planned, its outbuildings numerous and commodious, its other improvements up-to-date and its management of a decidedly intelligent type.

In 1905 Mr. and Mrs. Johnson removed from the farm to a home in

Hosted by Google

Marshall. They now occupy an attractive brick house, surrounded by spacious and well-kept grounds of about 12½ acres. Mr. Johnson occupies his time in looking after his various interests, enjoying social intercourse and keeping in touch with public affairs. He is a member of the Masonic order and a Knight Templar. He has held various offices of public service, including those of Township Clerk, Road Commissioner and Pathmaster, besides having represented his township as a member of the County Board of Supervisors. He is counted a man of superior calibre of mind and character, as well as one notable for his long connection with this locality. They have one child, Andrew and he resides at home.

JOHN C. SNYDER. In the life of John C. Snyder, one of the wealthiest and most influential farmer-citizens of Calhoun county, there may be found a lesson that will be of benefit to those who feel that circumstances have conspired against them—an example worthy of emulation by those who have allowed themselves to become discouraged by their misfortunes. Mr. Snyder is not only a self-made man; he is something more, for he has retrieved a lost fortune by steady and persevering labor, and has placed himself in a position where he commands the respect of his fellowmen and holds prestige in the world of business and finance. John C. Snyder was born in Albion township, Calhoun county, Michigan, October 2, 1856, and is a son of Phillip and Betsy A. (Snider) Snyder, natives of New York. His paternal grandfather, Abraham Snyder, took up 320 acres of land from the government, and was engaged in farming throughout his life. On the maternal side Mr. Snyder's grandfather was John Snider, a native of New York, who came to Michigan at an early day and spent the rest of his life following the vocation of a millwright. Phillip Snyder accompanied his parents to Michigan at an early period of the state's settlement, and was here educated, reared and married. His life was spent in agricultural pursuits, and he was also influential in Democratic politics, holding various township offices. He and his wife had a family of seven children, of whom John C. was the fourth in order of birth. The family was connected with the Methodist Episcopal church at Homer.

John C. Snyder was given the advantages of a district school education and was reared to the life of an agriculturist, but turned his attention to mercantile pursuits, and for ten years was engaged in business in South Dakota. Various circumstances over which he had no control caused the failure of his business ventures, and he finally lost all the money he had invested in the enterprises. Nothing daunted by his misfortunes, he settled down to make a new start in life, and succeeded in securing from his brother a tract of 160 acres of land in South Dakota, the greater part on credit, and so successful was this undertaking that he accumulated a tract of 1,900 acres of land, and when he left South Dakota, had a capital of $50,000. Thus financially equipped, in November, 1902, he returned to Michigan, and purchased eighty acres of land in Homer township, there building a beautiful country home, and improving his property with substantial buildings, and stocking it with fine livestock. He now owns and operates 345 acres, not a foot of which is poor land, and in addition to carrying on general farming, engages extensively in buying and selling stock. For some time he was president of the Calhoun County State Bank, but at present acts in the capacity of vice-president of that institution. The leading characteristics of Mr. Snyder's life may be said to have been a persevering spirit that has led him to keep steadily on to his cherished goal, and a sturdy, courageous heart that has refused to recognize or admit defeat. With these,

Hosted by Google

however, have been combined absolute integrity, honesty to himself and to his neighbor, and that regard for the rights of others which leads men to acquit themselves with honor in the business arena. Such a man is a credit to any community, and as such Mr. Snyder holds the esteem and regard of his fellow citizens.

On October 19, 1878, Mr. Snyder was united in marriage with Miss Ellen Cawthorpe, daughter of James Cawthorpe, a native of England who now lives in northern Michigan, and four children have been born to this union: Phillip, who assists his father in the work of the home farm; Bessie, who died, aged 22 years; Rollo and Harlen, who are attending school. In his political belief Mr. Snyder is a Democrat, and fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen

MARTIN A. SINCLEIR. Calhoun county holds no uncertain rank among the numerous rich agricultural counties of Michigan and among the enterprising and self-reliant men who conduct its farming interests mention is deserved by Martin A. Sincleir, of Clarence township, whose farmstead is one of the most attractive and most valuable for its size of any in that locality.

Mr. Sincleir was born July 30, 1854, in a log cabin that stood on the place he now owns. Cornelius Sincleir, his father, born in New York in 1827, moved to Branch county, Michigan with his mother when twelve years old and there grew to manhood. He married Emily Nye, also a native of New York, in which state she was born in 1832, whose father was a native of Vermont, was reared there and died there. Cornelius and Emily (Nye) Sincleir became the parents of six children, as follows: Marietta, who became the wife of E. Page and now resides at the Soldiers Home at Grand Rapids, Michigan; Edgar L., who spent twenty-five years in the Methodist ministry and now resides in Berry county, Michigan; Martin A., the subject of this review; Marilla, deceased; Emma, the wife of E. Collyer, of Springport, Michigan; and Rollin O., who is located in Idaho. Both parents are deceased, the father having passed away in 1894 and the mother in 1909. They were members of the United Brethren church. Cornelius Sincleir was a stanch adherent of the Republican party and took a warm interest in its work. He entered the Union army in August, 1864, as a member of the Twenty-eighth Michigan Infantry and served until January 1, 1865. This regiment was mustered in October 26, 1864, and left the state that day for Louisville, Kentucky, where it arrived on the 29th and was ordered to Camp Nelson to act as a guard for a wagon train from that point to Nashville, reaching the latter place December 5. There the regiment was assigned to the 23d army corps and participated in the battle of Nashville in December, gaining a reputation for valor at once. Mr. Sincleir was held three days as a reserve at Nashville. Taken sick with pneumonia during this time, he was unfit for further duty and was discharged. He was a son of John Sincleir and Catherine Quigley Sincleir, the former of whom ran away from his native Scotland at the age of eighteen and made his way to the United States, locating in New York, where he thereafter spent his life as a farmer. The mother of Catherine Quigley was one of the children that strewed flowers in front of Washington in the great celebration over his defeat of Cornwallis.

Martin A. Sincleir received a common school education and assisted with the work of the home farm until twenty-eight years of age, when he started out for himself, working in the woods for a number of winters. In the meantime, in 1881, he contracted for eighty acres of land, which he cleared from the stump and on which he placed good and substantial

Hosted by Google

improvements in the way of buildings. This is his present homestead and forms a beautiful country home. The farm is a model as to cultivation, for under Mr. Sincleir's intelligent management the fertile acres are made to reach a high state of productivity and well reward him for his thought and care. For this accomplishment Mr. Sincleir has been wholly dependent upon the resources within himself.

In 1875 he took as his wife Miss Etta Clark, daughter of James and Emily J. (Cortright) Clark, the former of whom was born in Ohio and the latter in New York. Mr. Clark was a traveling salesman and also a farmer and he and his wife were early settlers in Calhoun county. Mr. and Mrs. Sincleir have two daughters: Lodessa, who became the wife of Ira Bair and resides in Clarence township, and Nora, now Mrs. George Boult, of Eaton county, Michigan. Mr. Sincleir is a member of Olivet Lodge No. 267 Free and Accepted Masons and holds his chapter membership at Springport. In politics he is a Republican. He has not entered into public life in an official way except for six weeks' service on the jury at Battle Creek, during which time he helped to settle some very important cases, but he is nevertheless interested in all that advances Calhoun county or makes for public progress in any way.

GEORGE H. KIEFER. One of the most popular and esteemed members of the farming community of Homer township, George H. Kiefer uses sound judgment and wise business in his calling, and is meeting with well deserved success, his finely improved property, with its substantial and convenient buildings, giving to the passerby ample evidence of his skill and ability as a practical and progressive agriculturist. A son of John Kiefer, Jr., he was born May 19, 1849, in Homer township, coming on the paternal side of the house of German ancestry.

His grandfather, John Kiefer, Sr., emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1827, bringing his wife and children with him, and settling in Homer township, Calhoun county, Michigan. Taking up one hundred and sixty acres of timbered land from the Government, he cleared and improved the homestead on which he lived during the remainder of his life.

Born in Germany in 1817, John Kiefer, Jr., was but ten years old when he came with his parents to Calhoun county. He assisted his father in the pioneer task of redeeming a farm from the wilderness, spending his youthful days in the log cabin which his father built in the forest. He learned the miller's trade when young, and for thirteen years, while in the employ of Lewis & Smith, had charge of the Calhoun County Grist Mill, being engaged in the manufacture of flour, which he hauled to Albion with teams, that being the nearest market and shipping point. Subsequently returning to the old Kiefer homestead, he was there successfully engaged in tilling the soil until his death, October 29, 1870. He married Jane Bailey, who was born in New York state in 1826, and died on the home farm, in Michigan, in 1859. He was a stanch Republican in politics, and an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, while his wife was a Presbyterian in religion. Of the three children born of their union, George H., the subject of this sketch, is the only one living.

After leaving the district schools, George H. Kiefer entered Albion College, intending to there complete the course of study, but the death of his father after he had been there two years changed his plans, necessitating his return to the home farm. Mr. Kiefer has since carried on general farming with splendid results, his estate being one of the best in its improvements and appointments of any in the township. A Republican in politics, he is genuinely interested in local matters, and has

Hosted by Google

served as justice of the peace and as constable, and for three years was highway commissioner.

On February 22, 1871, Mr. Kiefer was united in marriage with Lois Bond, of Allen, Michigan, a daughter of John Bond, for many years a prosperous farmer of Hillsdale county, where he spent his last years. Mr. and Mrs. Kiefer have one daughter, Myrtle, wife of S. C. Eslow, who is engaged in the shoe business in Homer.

WILLIAM G. NONEMAN. The Noneman families have been well known in Marshall for many years, contributing materially to the necessary industries of the place and holding a leading position in the Germany social activities of the city. Louis Noneman of Wittenberg, Germany, came with his wife, Louisa (Heugel) Noneman, and their family, to this country in the year 1882. For a time they stopped at Ann Arbor, Michigan; they then spent a few years on a farm in Huron county; in 1885 he located in Marshall, which has since that time continued to be the home of the family. Louis Noneman is now retired, his time being chiefly employed in the oversight of his property, which is of considerable value and extent.

One of the sons of this family is William G. Noneman, Marshall's present city marshall and a retired ice merchant. He was born in Wittenberg on the sixth of November, 1867. His education began in the fatherland and was continued in the public schools of Michigan. After the family's emigration to this country, agricultural interests claimed his practical attention for several years. After a time, however, he went to Grand Rapids to gain information and experience in mercantile transactions. He was there employed in a grocery store until 1894. He subsequently returned to Marshall, where he conducted a similar business with his brother Louis. In 1903 they sold out. In 1906 they bought out the Marshall Ice & Fruit Company and conducted it until 1912, when William retired from active commercial pursuits.

Mr. Noneman's family consists of his wife and one daughter. Mrs. Noneman, formerly Miss Rose Noneman, was only distantly related to the family of which William Noneman was a son. Her father was Carl M. Noneman, one of Marshall's old residents. During the years of her union with Mr. Noneman, one daughter has been born to them, who was named Norma and who is now attending school.

The Deutschen Order of Harugari claims William Noneman as its president, an office which he has filled for two years. He is also a member of the Arbeiter Unterstuetzungs Verein. In the Independent Order of Odd Fellows he is connected with Peninsular Lodge Number 5. Politically he is a Democrat. In April of 1912 he was appointed to the position of city marshall, the duties of which he discharges with conscientiousness and diligence.

WILL LAUPP. The great Empire of Germany has contributed its fair quota to the upbuilding of the United States and among its representatives in this country are to be found prominent men in every walk of life,—from the professions to the successful farmer. Will Laupp, though a native of Michigan, is a son of German parents. He is the owner of the old homestead on which he was born and the same is located in Newton township, Calhoun county, Michigan.

February 2, 1868, in Newton township, Calhoun county, occurred the birth of Will Laupp, who is a son of Michael and Fredericka (Schulster) Laupp, both of whom were born in Germany. The father came to America as a young man in the early '50s and located in Michigan, where he worked for a number of years as a farm hand. In 1864 was

Hosted by Google

solemnized his marriage to Fredericka Schulster, who came to America with a brother and settled in Marshall, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Laupp became the parents of five children, concerning whom the following brief data are here incorporated: Fred is engaged in farming in Lee township, Calhoun county; Lizzie is married and lives in Marshall; Will, of this review; Julia married Fred Weedle and they make their home in Battle Creek; John. After his marriage Michael Laupp purchased eighty acres of land in the northern part of Newton township and after clearing the same he erected a number of substantial buildings and began farming. He was decidedly successful as an agriculturist and was summoned to the life eternal in 1896. His cherished and devoted wife passed away in 1894. Religiously he and his wife were members of the Lutheran church.

Will Laupp passed his early life on the home farm, in the work and management of which he early began to assist his father, and his educational training was obtained in the neighboring district schools. At the age of twenty years he started out on his own responsibility, working by the month on various farms for the ensuing four years. For twelve years he was engaged in threshing, and was the owner of a complete equipment for that work. He has always made his home on the parental estate, and has bought out the shares of his brothers and sisters. His farm comprises eighty acres of some of the most arable land in Calhoun county and on the same he is engaged in diversified agriculture and the raising of high grade stock. He has owned other lands in various sections of the state as a speculation. In politics he maintains an independent attitude; preferring to give his support to men and measures meeting with the approval of his judgment rather than to vote along strictly partisan lines. In 1911 he was the efficient incumbent of the office of highway commissioner. For recreation Mr. Laupp and his family find automobiling suited to their tastes and have made many a pleasureable jaunt in their car. Mr. Laupp is an enthusiast on the subject of motoring and motor cars and is an expert mechanician along those lines.

In 1898 Mr. Laupp was united in marriage with Miss Frances Glau. She is a daughter of William Glau, a sketch of whose career appears elsewhere in this history. Mr. and Mrs. Laupp are the parents of one son, Lee, who was born in 1899, and who is now attending school in Newton township.

PLATT A. MUMAW, office superintendent of the extensive monument business conducted by the members of his firm and family, is well known as the son of Henry W. Mumaw, who was for thirty years engaged in that business in Marshall. The latter, Henry W. Mumaw, who was a native of Wilmot, Ohio, came to Marshall with his family in the year 1881. His was an important share in the life of this city; for not only did he build up a high-class business in marble and granite materials, but was a useful and valuable citizen in other ways. For several years he was a member of the Marshall fire department, of which he was for one year chief engineer under Mayor F. W. Dickey. He was an active Republican and was in 1906 honored by his party with the nomination for sheriff. The order of the Knights of the Modern Maccabees claimed him as one of its members in Marshall Tent Number 105, and he was also much interested in the work of the German Benevolent Society, of which he was a member. His earthly life closed in February, 1911, at the age of fifty-five. Those of his family who survive him are Mrs. Mumaw, his wife; his three sons, Arlo, Harry and the subject of this sketch; and a daughter, Mrs. W. J. Rudland of Red Wing, Minnesota. Ten of his

Hosted by Google

fourteen brothers and sisters are also still living and are residents of various parts of Ohio.

Platt A. Mumaw was born in Sevill, Ohio, February 10, 1880. He was educated in the public and high schools of Marshall, after which he spent four years in the Bliss Electric School of Washington, D. C. Having completed this period of study, he entered the employ of the Bell Telephone Company in Washington. Three years later, however, he joined his father in the steadily expanding granite and monument business in Marshall. Their partnership continued until the elder Mr. Mumaw's death, at which time Platt A. Mumaw and his brother Arlo succeeded to the business. This firm has since been conducting a steadily growing business in the handling of material for monuments, their marble and granite being obtained from the quarries of Vermont and Massachusetts, as well as from those of Missouri and the Red Sand Stone quarries of Missouri. These men are noted for the quality of their work as well as for superior marbles, having turned out many of the finest pieces of work to be found in Oakridge and other cemeteries. Their business extends throughout Calhoun and adjoining counties.

Mr. Mumaw's marriage took place August 23, 1910. Mrs. Mumaw, nee Pauline Hoyer. She and Mr. Mumaw are the parents of one son, named Henry. The fraternal organizations of Marshall are among Mr. Mumaw's various interests, the Albion Lodge Number 20 of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Lafayette Chapter Number 4 of the Royal Arch Masons and the Knights of Pythias all including him among their members. He also belongs to the German Benevolent Society. In public service he has done worthy service for two years as City Recorder, which office he held during the years 1904-1905.

WILLIAM R. WOODEN. Of that type of citizenship of whose production the great state of Michigan is particularly proud is William R. Wooden, secretary of the Nichols & Shepard Company of Battle Creek. He is one of the representative men of Battle Creek, where he has maintained his residence since 1883 and no one has proved more loyal to its interests. In addition to the connection above referred to, Mr. Wooden has considerable property interests in this city. He is a leader in the camp of local Republicanism and his word is of weight in party councils of the Grand Old Party, to which he has given heart and hand for many years.

Mr. Wooden was born in Lenawee county, Michigan, October 6, 1856, the son of Joseph W. and Elizabeth (Lair) Wooden. The mother survives at the present time, but the father passed to his eternal rest in February, 1896, the scene of the demise of this worthy gentleman being Battle Creek. In his earlier life he engaged in farming, and subsequently embarked in the ice business in Tecumseh. There were five children in the family, two being sons and three daughters, and at the present three are living, the subject and two sisters. One, Mrs. J. J. Wakeham, resides in Battle Creek, and Bertha is unmarried and makes her home with Mr Wooden.

William R. Wooden received his preliminary general education in the public schools of Tecumseh, from whose higher department he was graduated. Desiring to drink deeper of the "Pierian spring" of knowledge, he matriculated in the University of Michigan and believing that he wanted to enter the ranks of the legists, he made professional preparation in that famous institution, and received the degree of LL. B. in 1879. He first hung out his shingle in Tecumseh and remained at that place engaged in practice until 1883. In that year he came to Battle Creek and entered the employ of Nichols & Shepard as an office employe

Hosted by Google

and also having charge of the collection department. His ability and loyalty were recognized and rewarded by his election to the office of secretary of this important concern, which position he has ever since held. He owns considerable real estate in this city.

Mr. Wooden has always taken a firm stand for whatever he considered to be for the best interests of the community and society in general and has always been the friend of good government and as much as possible endeavored to follow after the things that make for harmony. Mr. Wooden has not always been a Republican leader; in truth his first vote was given to the cause of the Democratic party, and its men and measures he supported until 1896, it being his record to attend every Democratic convention between the years 1880 and 1896, as a delegate. In the year last mentioned he experienced a change of heart and ever since has attended Republican state conventions, given the causes represented by the Republican party the same whole-hearted loyalty accorded its rival in other days. He was sent as a delegate from this district to the national convention in Chicago which nominated President Taft in June, 1908. In 1890 Mr. Wooden was elected alderman on the Democratic ticket and when Bryan was nominated in 1896 he was alternate delegate at large. At the present time he is a member of the charter commission to make a new charter for the city of Battle Creek, an eminently appropriate selection, for Mr. Wooden has ever done everything in his power to advance the best interests of his fellow citizens and by indefatigable devotion to public duty has commended himself to the community at large.

The subject is affiliated with the Masonic order belonging to all the bodies represented in Battle Creek. He is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and to the Country Club and the Athelstan Club. He is past presiding officer of the Knights Templars and the Elks.

On June 9, 1880, Mr. Wooden established an independent household and congenial life companionship by his union with Minnie C. Hopkins, of Tecumseh, daughter of Charles and Clarissa (Walker) Hopkins. Mrs. Wooden was born in Binghamton, New York and received her education in the public schools of Tecumseh. Their union has been blessed with one daughter, Clara, wife of R. S. Hinsdell, of Chicago, who was born in Tecumseh and educated in Battle Creek and at St. Mary's Academy at Notre Dame. Mr. and Mrs. Wooden enjoy general confidence and regard and maintain a hospitable home at 548 East Main street.

WILLIAM T. HAMILTON. Owning and occupying a valuable farm in the near vicinity of Homer, William T. Hamilton is a man of excellent business capacity, intelligence, and enterprise, and stands prominent among the active and progressive agriculturists of Calhoun county. He was born, December 6, 1863, in Hamilton, Canada, a son of Thomas Hamilton. He is of Irish ancestry, his paternal grandfather, William Hamilton, having been a life-long resident of County Donegal, Ireland.

Thomas Hamilton was born, in 1827, in Ireland, and there spent his days of boyhood and youth. At the age of eighteen years he bade goodbye to home and friends, and crossed the ocean in his search for better opportunities of increasing his finances. Settling in Canada, he took up two hundred acres of government land, and began clearing it. He subsequently sold at an advantage, and in 1867 came to Michigan, locating first in Lenawee county, where he remained a year. In 1868 he bought land in Litchfield, Hillsdale county, and was there engaged in tilling the soil until 1904. Retiring from active pursuits in that year, he came to Homer, and thenceforward made his home with his son William until

Hosted by Google

his death, December 4, 1910. He married Caroline T. Barnes, who was born in London, England, and died in Homer, Michigan. They were consistent Christian people, uniting with the Congregational church when they were young, but later becoming members of the Homer Presbyterian church. They were the parents of two children, as follows: William T., the subject of this sketch; and Martha M., wife of John Kerr, of Homer.

Completing his early studies in the public schools of Litchfield, William T. Hamilton gained a practical knowledge of agriculture while young, and assisted his father on the home farm until twenty-eight years of age. In 1890 he bought forty acres of land in Calhoun county, but disposed of it a short time later, and in 1891 bought a part of the land which he now occupies. He afterwards purchased fifty acres of adjoining land, and still later purchased fifty acres lying just across the road from his original purchase, and now after having disposed of some, he still has a fine farm of one hundred acres, on which he has made improvements of an excellent character. He is carrying on general farming most successfully, being never satisfied with less than the best possible results in his agricultural operations, and is paying considerable attention to stock raising, breeding Durham cattle to some extent.

On March 12, 1890, Mr. Hamilton was united in marriage with Lena Boyd, a daughter of William Boyd, who was born in Ireland, and on coming to this country located in Lenawee county, Michigan, where he spent the remainder of his life. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton have three children, namely: Buell Boyd, born May 26, 1891; Amos G., born March 17, 1895; and Thelma Irene, born July 16, 1901. Mr. Hamilton invariably casts his vote in favor of the Republican party. In 1908 he was elected supervisor, and is now serving in that capacity for the fourth year.

FRANK PONTO is a young agriculturist of Clarence township, Calhoun county, who in the few years of his independent career has demonstrated that the farm gives ample business opportunity to the man of ability and discernment. He comes directly of German forbears and to what extent his ancestral inheritance is responsible for his accomplishments may not be stated, but certain it is that for his part he has well upheld the proverbial reputation of the German as a thrifty and successful agriculturist.

He was born in Clarence township, Calhoun county, Michigan, January 15, 1884, the youngest of the six children of his parents. Gottleib and Henrietta (Schmidt) Ponto, his parents, were both born in Germany, he in 1831 and she in 1833. They emigrated to America in 1871 and located at Albion, Michigan, where they resided nine years and where the father was employed as a laboring man. In 1880 he bought eighty acres of the farm which Frank now owns and built thereon a beautiful country home, together with other substantial farm buildings, making it a homestead both attractive and valuable. He added to his original purchase until at the time of his death his holdings comprised 160 acres. Here he passed the remainder of his life and passed away in 1907. His wife is still living and continues to reside at the old home. Four sons and three daughters were the issue of their union, viz.: William, Henry and John, all of whom are farmer residents of Clarence township; Amelia, now Mrs. Lewis Stacher, of Battle Creek, Michigan; Minnie, who became the wife of Otto Greenman and resides in Calhoun county; Emma, the wife of Albert Behling of Albion township; and Frank, whose name introduces this review. Gottleib Ponto was a Democrat in politics and in church affiliations was a Lutheran, in the faith of which denomination he was reared from childhood.

Hosted by Google

Frank Ponto began his education in the district schools of Clarence township and concluded it in the public schools of Albion. When his student days were over he returned to the farm and assisted his aged father in its management while the latter was still living, and after the father's death, or in 1908, he bought out the other heirs and in the short period since then has so intelligently managed his farming interests that he has paid this indebtedness and is now the owner of the old homestead. Besides general farming he gives especial attention to the raising of beans and has twenty-six acres devoted to that crop this year (1912). In political views he is a Republican.

HENRY GOLDUP. A fine representative, not only of the prosperous and well-to-do agriculturists of Calhoun county, but of the self-made men of the state, Henry Goldup, of Homer township, is especially worthy of more than passing mention in a work of this kind and value. Like many other of Michigan's more prosperous citizens, he is of foreign birth and breeding, having been born, January 15, 1844, in England. His parents, Thomas and Caroline (Harington) Goldup, were life-long residents of England, the father having been overseer on a large farming estate, and both having been members of the Church of England.

At the age of twenty-one years, deciding that a change of scenes and country might prove beneficial to his finances, at least, Henry Goldup, unaccompanied by either friends or relatives, crossed the Atlantic to New York, and for two years worked by the month at Hoosick Falls, that state. Being economical and frugal, he saved one hundred dollars the first year. In 1868 he came to Michigan where land was cheaper than in the eastern states, locating in Calhoun county, where he worked by the month for three years, after which he rented land for two years, and farmed on his own account. In 1875 Mr. Goldup first became a landholder, paying part cash down for eighty acres of land, which was in its primitive wildness. Clearing a space, he erected a house and the necessary farm buildings, fenced the land, and continued his agricultural operations. As his means increased, he invested in other tracts of land, and is now the owner of four hundred acres of as rich farming land as can be found in his neighborhood. A broad-minded, liberal man, enterprising and progressive, he has spared neither time nor expense in adding to the improvements of his property, and in addition to carrying on general farming breeds Durham cattle, a branch of industry that he finds quite profitable.

Mr. Goldup married, in 1868, Jane Hannah Peal, and to them twelve children have been born, namely: Thomas, who bought the Cook farm, which he is now managing successfully; James, working on his father's farm; Clara, wife of Will Riechow, of Homer; Charley, twin brother of Clara, lives in Albion; Susan, wife of John Mathias, of Homer; Florence, lives with her parents; Willie, living at home; and Bessie, attending the Homer high school, and four that died in youth. Politically Mr. Goldup is a Democrat, and religiously he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

HENRY E. WHITBECK. A Convis township agriculturalist of broad interests is Henry E. Whitbeck, who for more than forty years has been a resident of Michigan and for forty or more a citizen of the community where he now resides. Mr. Whitbeck is a New Yorker by birth, the Empire state having been the life-long home of both his father and his grandfather. The last-named progenitor, Albert Whitbeck, was living in Columbia county of the eastern commonwealth when his son, James Whitbeck, was born, in the year 1795. The latter became a farmer of

Hosted by Google

notable success, owning one hundred acres and living in the village of Newark in his later years. He married Miss Elsie Statts, also of that county, where she was born in 1824. James Whitbeck and his wife reared a family of seven children of whom Henry was the youngest. His brothers and sisters who are yet living include the following: Catherine, who is Mrs. John L. Van Auken, now a widow, nearly eighty years of age, living in Iowa; Albert Whitbeck, of Missouri; John Whitbeck, of Florida; and Lena, who is Mrs. B. D. Doane, of Ohio. This group of sons and daughters were brought up in the faith of the Presbyterian church, of which both the parents were members. The father was a Republican in politics.

At the home of James and Elsie Whitbeck, in Wayne county, New York, occurred on April 6, 1848, the birth of the son named Henry. In the rural schools of his home locality and in the high school at Newark he received his life's educational equipment. This he turned to immediate account by teaching a few terms of school, after which he devoted his attention to his inherited vocation of farming. After a valuable variety of experience in assisting others in farm enterprises, he came in the year 1870 to Michigan, where he bought land in Penfield township. After ten years of agricultural activity in that place he made a permanent location in Convis township, where he has become a well-known and influential citizen. His farm, which embraces a quarter-section, is one on which all the pursuits of general farming are carried on, dairy and fruit being special features of the same.

Mrs. Whitbeck was in her girlhood Miss Flora A. Shipman, a daughter of Albert and Rachael (Burch) Shipman. The Shipman family were among the early settlers of Michigan. Their farm of one hundred and sixty acres was well known as that of a successful agriculturist. Flora Shipman was the only child of her parents and her marriage to Mr. Whitbeck occurred March 16, 1870. They became the parents of six children, named and located as follows: Albert Whitbeck, in St. Paul; Lucius located in the West; Flora, Mrs. C. C. Day, in Marshall, Michigan; George, in Convis township, where he is a capable farmer; Charles, in the parental home; Lena, who is a trained nurse, in Ann Arbor. The members of this estimable family are connected with the Methodist Episcopal church. The political affiliation of Mr. Whitbeck is Republican.

GEORGE S. WHITBECK and his worthy wife are typical exponents of the faithfully industrious and unpretentious citizens who contribute the most staple elements, both of material production and of character, to the sustaining of our great country. Mr. Whitbeck, the son of Henry Whitbeck, one of Michigan's representative agriculturists, was born on January 1, 1878, in Penfield township. His early mental development was accomplished under the public school system of Marshall township, and as he neared the years of maturity he turned his attention and energies to the purposive pursuits of the farm which the family at that time occupied in Convis township.

The useful activities pertaining to the landed property on which he lives and the serene comforts of domestic life have ever been to George Whitbeck the chief pleasures of existence. At the age of twenty-two he fortunately won a life companion of high quality, since when his vocational progress has been steadily increasing in spite of occasional untoward circumstances. A brief period he spent in a business enterprise of a nature related logically to the enterprises of the farm. Leaving for a time the mingled and ever numerous agricultural duties to which he had been reared, he removed to Battle Creek, where for one year he conducted

Hosted by Google

a meat market. At the end of that time he purchased a property of eighty acres adjoining the parental farm and returned to the freedom of rural life. Not only does he pursue successfully the varied activities of general farming, but makes a notable specialty of dairying. He possesses a very fine herd of registered Jerseys, which he is from time to time increasing. Aside from the occupation of a part of his property by his stock, he has sixty acres under an excellent state of cultivation.

Mrs. George Whitbeck was formerly Miss Agnes Van Nocker, a daughter of Andrew Van Nocker, regarding whose parents—representatives of a New York family—information is given in the sketch of James Van Nocker, in these volumes. Andrew Van Nocker was reared and educated among the rural scenes of Convis township, learning the various phases of farm work from his father, with whom he remained until the age of sixteen, at which time he began to gather a wider experience by working by the month for neighboring farmers. In 1874 he married Maggie Skillen, a daughter of David and Margaret Skillen; she was a native of New York state, the date of her birth being July 7, 1853. Mr. and Mrs. Skillen never came to the state of their daughter's adoption. Her marriage to Mr. Van Nocker occurred in 1878; their residence was established on a fine fruit farm; and their family was five times successively brightened by the coming of a daughter, of whom Agnes Adell—later Mrs. Whitbeck—was the second. Her elder sister was named Ida May and her residence is still with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Van Nocker. The three younger sisters were as follows: Ella Myrtle Van Nocker, now Mrs. Arthur Carus of Penfield township and the mother of one child, Ovid Merle Carus; Bessie Ethel Van Nocker, who is now Mrs. Frank Van Laudagent of Kalamazoo city; and Celia Caroline, who is Mrs. Ellery House of Battle Creek and the mother of two children, Duane and Mildred Elois House. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Van Nocker and Miss Van Nocker is one of the attractive places of Convis township. Mr. Van Nocker is notable for his independent political views, which are somewhat socialistic.

The Van Nocker-Whitbeck marriage took place in 1900 and has been blessed with one son, Sheldon Laverne, who was born January 14, 1903, and who is now attending the Cleveland school in Marshall township. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Whitbeck is one of the most interesting and progressive households of the younger agriculturists in Convis township. Their house was unfortunately destroyed by fire in April, 1912, but the business of constructing a new edifice was at once put into operation. Mr. Whitbeck's outside interests include his political affiliation with the Republican party and his fraternal connection with the order of the Modern Woodmen of America. Both he and Mrs. Whitbeck enjoy social activity.

CHARLES LAWRENCE ELLIS. To devote one's life to the betterment of the conditions of the rising generation and to inspire the youth of the land to equip themselves for more useful lives is a work that will abide. We who are now bearing the burdens of civil and moral life must depend upon the oncoming generation to take our places in a few short years, and we expect of them greater things than we have accomplished, to do our work better than we have done it. The person who contributes his energies and genius to this work will confer enduring benefits upon society, and those who come after us will be better qualified than we are to make this old world a better place in which to live.

To a remarkable degree has the life work of Charles Lawrence Ellis been felt by the young men and young women of our land. He is

Hosted by Google



CHARLES L. ELLIS

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

enshrined in the hearts of the people not because he promulgated a new code of morals, nor because of the discovery of an enlightened religious dogma, nor for his advocacy of some amazing political creed, but because he worked out in a practical manner the means by which the oncoming generation can secure an education that will not only make it easier for them to earn a livelihood, but will encourage them to become better and more useful citizens. To this one idea he devoted his life. His work has endured, and has influenced for good thousands of young lives.

Briefly, Mr. Ellis, after years of thought and study devised a system of business instruction for use in public and private schools that has revolutionized the methods of teaching commercial subjects. The practicability of this plan of instruction has been amply demonstrated. The author believed that the prevalent method of teaching commercial subjects was wrong in theory and ineffective in practice, and said so boldly. Mr. Ellis' ideas aroused the hostility of those who were wedded to the old educational regime. The conservative wise man is liable to resent new ideas as a challenge to his own wisdom. So the criticisms came. The leading educational journals all over the country teemed with articles pro and con, and the venerable and conservative dignitaries of the educational world declared that it was a fad and a fraud and a scheme to delude the unwary. And so the war waged, until finally the child of Mr. Ellis' brain, the idea of learning to do by doing won the victory, simply because it was founded on the eternal principle of progress and right thinking. The author had the satisfaction of seeing to some extent the splendid results of his work before his death. The promulgation of this great idea brought about a discussion that has had no parallel in the history of education. Now that it has come to be accepted and adopted it is acknowledged that it has done more than all else combined to revive the popularity of business education. And so Mr. Ellis' work lives, and more and more as the years go by do men and women realize what he did for them and for the cause of sound and sane educational methods. He builded better than he knew.

Charles Lawrence Ellis was born near Hubbardston, Michigan, in Ionia County, on the 17th of April, 1856. He was reared on the farm, receiving the hardy and practical training that falls to the lot of the American country boy. He was sent to the village school, and when he was yet a boy he became much interested in penmanship, in which art he soon became an adept. He began his career as a teacher of writing in Central Michigan, and it was not long before he became known as a penman of great artistic ability. He particularly excelled as an ornamental penman, and his fine productions in this line marked him as one of the best pen artists in the United States. He had no intention, however, of adopting this profession as a vocation, so he studied accounting and was soon prepared to accept a position as head bookkeeper for a business concern. He felt that he had not as yet acquired sufficient education, so he resigned his position and entered Valparaiso University at Valparaiso, Indiana. At the conclusion of his course in this institution he accepted a position as teacher of penmanship and bookkeeping in the Cleary Business College at Ypsilanti, Michigan.

The principalship of the Commercial Department of the Eureka Academy and Business College at Eureka, California, was offered him in 1885, and he resigned his former position to accept this. In 1886, in conjunction with N. S. Phelps, principal of this school, Mr. Ellis founded the San Francisco Business College. It was while he was connected with these schools that he developed the method of commercial teaching that has made his name honored and revered wherever the subject is

Hosted by Google

taught. The system was so successful and it brought pupils in such increasing numbers to the school, that the partners determined to publish the method. To facilitate this work they organized the Ellis Publishing Company. They later disposed of their interest in the San Francisco Business College, in order to give all of their time to the demands of the growing publishing business. In 1893 they located the business at Battle Creek, Michigan, and here it has grown with the years to its present large proportions.

Mr. Ellis was only forty-one years of age at the time of his death, which came with a suddenness that was a great shock to everyone. He had always been in perfect health and was a man of powerful physique. His death was due to embolism of the pulmonary artery. He died in Battle Creek on the 25th of September, 1897.

The Ellis Publishing Company publish the well known Ellis Cabinet-Card System of Actual Business, Ellis Industrial Bookkeeping and the Tablet Method of Teaching Bookkeeping and Business Training, as well as numerous commercial text-books. They also print school stationery, and other supplies, and they do a great variety of other printing. Their publications are not only popular as to subject matter, but are attractive in mechanical appearance. The officers of the company are W. B. Phillips, president; Mrs. Bertha L. Corpening, vice president; and Mrs. Henrietta Ellis, secretary and treasurer. The company is located at 15-17 East State Street. Their publications are used widely by public and private schools throughout the United States and Canada.

On the 9th of February, 1889, Mr. Ellis was married to Miss Henrietta Freeman, in San Francisco, California. Mrs. Ellis' girlhood home was Detroit, and she had been a student of her husband's at the Cleary Business College in Ypsilanti, Michigan. One daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ellis. This daughter, Myrtle C., was born in San Francisco. She attended the Battle Creek schools and is now a student in La Salle Seminary at Auburndale, Massachusettes. After Mr. Ellis' death Mrs. Ellis, herself a trained business woman, took up the duties of administering the estate and continuing her husband's work. In this she has been unusually successful. Her tenacity of purpose, good judgment, and integrity of character has brought her recognition from the best business intterests of the city in which this thriving business is located. She is actively associated in the management of the business and is an important contributor to its success. Mrs. Ellis is a member of the Independent Congregational Church, and also a member of the Woman's League of Battle Creek.

Charles Lawrence Ellis was a man of strong personality. He was remarkably alert and possessed a mind of originality and of extreme inventive tendencies. He utilized this inventive talent not only in his chosen profession but also in other matters requiring mechanical skill. He was strong and true in his affections, and was greatly devoted to his family. His geniality won him a large circle of friends especially among the young people, for he was a delightful companion. It is difficult to understand why such a man should be lost to the world so young in life, but the work which he did lives after him.

Dwight C. Dickey. It is impossible to write of the enterprising farmer and poultryman, Dwight C. Dickey, without first giving space to the main facts of the life of his father, Franklin W. Dickey. The latter was the son of Judge Charles and Mary (Wakeman) Dickey, who are remembered by old residents of Marshall as being very prominent in the city's earlier activities. Franklin Dickey was born in Marshall on the eighteenth day of August, 1838. His education was that ob-

Hosted by Google

tainable in the public and high school system of the city and his earliest practical enterprises were those connected with his father's store and farm. He was wide awake and ambitious, however, and soon began to undertake independent business. He was twenty years of age when he began farming on his own account and also commenced the wool buying which he made so successful. He dealt largely in fleeces for eastern dealers, whom he represented as a buyer. He bought and shipped by carloads, becoming in a comparatively short time one of the principal wool-dealers in this section of Michigan. Not only this line, but that of handling horses of superior breed engaged his ability. He erected large barns and stables, bought horses such as his unusual judgment enabled him to buy to great advantage, handled them with exceptional skill and shipped them at fancy prices His farm property he fitted up with a modern and spacious home, in addition to the numerous large barns and stables erected for his horses Seven Oaks Farm is included within the corporate limits of Marshall and since Franklin Dickey's retirement from business the buildings formerly devoted to that purpose have been taken down and converted into other structures on odd lots. He still retains a lively interest in all affairs of personal and public nature. Formerly township assessor for four years, member of the school board for seven years, secretary of the Calhoun County Agricultural Society for several years and its president for four years, he has given worthy assistance to the official responsibilities of the community. As a Republican he has been always definitely active, having often represented his county in state and congressional convention. His is also the distinction of having been promoted from the private ranks to that of Major in the Second Michigan Cavalry, during the Civil war.

Mrs. Franklin Dickey was formerly Miss Mary A. Perry, of Tecumseh, Lenawee county, Michigan. She and Mr. Dickey became the parents of one daughter and two sons. They are well known in Marshall as Miss Donna L., Harry P. and Dwight C. Dickey, the last of whom is the special subject of this sketch.

Dwight C. Dickey was born in the same city that was his father's birthplace and is still his home, the son's natal day being June 1, 1883. He too was educated in the graded schools and the high school of Marshall; and he too learned practical activities on his father's farm. On the Dickey farm three miles southwest of the city, and comprising one hundred and sixty acres, he spent much of his time until he had reached the years of his majority. The farm which he now occupies is one of the best improved properties in the township. Here Mr. Dickey conducts various agricultural enterprises, chief among which are the extensive raising of grain and hay and of fine poultry products. He owns five hundred hens and plans increasing the number to fifteen hundred, while establishing a convenient and successful hennery. The chief specialty with which he is experimenting is that of Leghorn hens, the greatest of egg producers, though not prolific breeders. Mr. Dickey is testing the various makes of brooders, with the intention of bringing chicken-raising to a scientific and successful stage. His incubators are the latest and best improved on the market.

Mr. Dickey was married in 1904 to Miss Bertha E. Dobbins, a daughter of J. L. and Emma (Tiffany) Dobbins. Mr. Dobbins is widely known as one of the old residents of Calhoun county, where his land holdings are extensive. The children of the Dwight-Dobbins marriage are two sons named John Wakeman and Lawrence Dwight.

ROBERT E. DULLAM, M. D. Holding high position among his professional brethren in Calhoun county, Michigan, is Dr. Robert E. Dul-

Hosted by Google

lam. Acute in his perceptions, widely read in his profession and skillful in applying his acquirements to practical use, his value as a physician and surgeon is of the highest character, and it is by such as he that the famous couplet of Pope was inspired,

"A wise physician, skill'd our wounds to heal,
Is more than armies to the public weal."

Dr. Dullam was born in Flint, Michigan, June 22, 1874, the son of Dr. William and Ida (Bump) Dullam, both natives of Genesee county, Michigan. The father was of English descent and the mother traces her origin to Scotch forbears. The former received his education at Albion College in the early '50s and for his life work adopted the profession of a physician and druggist. He was a druggist at Flint for many years and was a man of influence and one who commanded respect, both for ability and character. His parents had crossed the Atlantic in early days to become Michigan pioneers and all his life he was one of the most loyal of Wolverine sons. In course of time he abandoned the drug business and devoted his entire attention to the practice of medicine, his career as a medical practitioner covering a period of thirty years. The death of this gentleman occurred in Flint, November 24, 1905. His admirable wife was educated in a convent at Monroe, Michigan, and she and her husband became the parents of three sons, the immediate subject of these lines being the eldest in order of birth.

Dr. Dullam was graduated from the Flint high school, as a member of the class of 1886 and subsequently matriculated in the Battle Creek Adventist College where he studied for five years. To prepare for his professional career he became a student in the Detroit College of Medicine, receiving his degree from this famous institution. Well fortified theoretically, he went to Flint to begin his practice with his honored father and he remained in this association for some three years, or until the elder gentleman was summoned from a sphere of signal usefulness to the Undiscovered Country. In that same year, 1905, Dr. Dullam came to Battle Creek and here his career has been of the most satisfactory character, his training and attainments, combined with personality of prepossessing sort having won for him the confidence and regard of the community. Fraternally, Dr. Dullam is a member of the Elks and the Knights of Pythias and he was a charter member of the Country Club. He takes the interest of the intelligent and altruistic citizen in all matters of public import, and his hand and heart are extended towards the support of all measures calculated for the betterment of the whole of society.

In November, 1911, Dr. Dullam had the happiness to be joined in this city by his brother, Dr. M. Stuart Dullam, a dentist. The latter was born in Flint, Michigan, August 21, 1876, and followed his public school education with attendance at the Adventist College of Battle Creek. He later became a student at Northwestern University, of Chicago, and prepared for his life work in the Detroit College of Dentistry, becoming a graduate of the same in 1902. He first hung out his professional shingle at Flint, Michigan, and subsequently removed to Manistique, and it was after practicing a year at the latter place that he came to this city. In the steady growth and development which have characterized the age, the science of dentistry has kept pace with the general progress and in this profession Dr. Dullam stands as a man of eminent qualification. Both gentlemen maintain finely equipped offices together at 19 East Main street, and Dr. M. Stuart Dullam, like his brother, is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of

Hosted by Google

Elks. Both doctors belong to Battle Creek's list of very eligible bachelors, and make their home with their mother, at 67 Marshall street.

GLENN E. LOCKWOOD. He whose name initiates this review is numbered among the representative farmers and stock growers of his native county, and his finely improved farm of two hundred acres is the old homestead on which he was born. Mr. Lockwood is a scion, in the third generation, of a family whose name has been prominently and worthily identified with the annals of Calhoun county since the territorial era of the history of the state. His grandfather, Isaac Lockwood, came from the state of New York to Michigan in 1831, about six years prior to the admission of the state to the Union, and he established his home in Marshall township, Calhoun county, where he secured from the government a tract of heavily timbered land, a very considerable part of which he reclaimed to cultivation. He reached a venerable age, and was one of the sterling pioneers of Calhoun county, where he was known and honored as a man of ability and as a citizen whose influence was exerted in a benignant way. Augustus Lockwood, father of Glenn E., was born in Delaware county, New York, and was nine years of age at the time of the family removal to Michigan. The journey to the new home was made with horse and ox teams and the family knew full well the trials and vicissitudes incidental to overland traveling in the pioneer days. Augustus Lockwood became one of the prosperous farmers and stock-growers of Calhoun county. He was a man of progressive ideas, and was a citizen who ever commanded a place in popular confidence and esteem. He was a Democrat in politics, held various offices in Marshall township and continued to reside on his old homestead farm until his death, which occurred in 1910, five years after the passing of his beloved wife. Her maiden name was Julia Pierce and she was born in Vermont, whence her parents came to Michigan when she was a child, her father, John Pierce, having been another of the early and honored settlers of Marshall township, this county. They became the parents of five children, whose names, in the order of their birth, are as here noted: Jennie O., Ernest J., Albert S., John P., and Glenn E.

Glenn E. Lockwood was born on his present homestead, in Marshall township, on the 10th day of May, 1873, and after availing himself of the advantages of the district school in his native village, he attended a select school in the village of Homer, after which he was for two years a student in the Marshall high school. He then completed a thorough course in the Krug Business College, in the city of Battle Creek, after which he was for a time traveling representative. He next renewed his allegiance to the great basic industry under whose influence he had been reared, and returning to the home farm was a number of years engaged largely in the dairy business; he maintained a fine dairy herd of about fifty cows. With this line of enterprise he continued to be identified for thirteen years, and in the meanwhile he had made the best of improvements on the homestead, especially in the way of provisions to facilitate his dairying operations. He erected a fine barn, two stories in height, the first story being of reinforced cement. In November, 1911, the upper story of this barn was demolished in a great wind storm, which swept through this section, but the cows were uninjured, as they were protected by the cement construction of the lower story, in which they were quartered. A portion of Mr. Lockwood's house also was blown down and other severe damage was done, in the destruction of fruit trees, etc. He had erected two fine silos with an aggregate capacity of one hundred and twenty tons, but neither of

Hosted by Google

these were damaged by the storm. After this disaster Mr. Lockwood sold his dairy here and has since given his attention to diversified farming and stock-raising. His fine farm of two hundred acres is now under a high state of cultivation and yielding good returns. During the time he was engaged in the dairy business practically the entire tract was given over to pasturage and the raising of fodder crops.

Mr. Lockwood has had no desire to enter the arena of practical politics or to assume the responsibilities of political office. He is one of the progressive citizens of his native county and here his circle of friends is coincident with that of his acquaintances.

In the year 1909, Mr. Lockwood was united in marriage with Miss Clarice Fitz John, who was born and reared in Eckford township, this county, and who is a daughter of David Fitz John, an old and popular citizen and substantial farmer of that township.

WALTER P. MARSH. To the Empire State must be given the credit for supplying Michigan with some of its best citizenship. It has supplied men of training in the trades, learning in the professions and thorough knowledge in the sciences, arts and vocations. Especially is this apparent in the field of agriculture, many of the Wolverine State's leading agriculturists being natives of the great State of New York. In this connection it is not inappropriate to briefly sketch the career and activities of Walter P. Marsh, a native New Yorker, who has added in no small way to the prestige of Calhoun county as a center of farming industry. Mr. Marsh was born in Jefferson county, New York, February 1, 1846, and is a son of James and Sarah (Membery) Marsh. His father was born in England in 1809, and his mother two years later, and they were married there in 1831. They became the parents of eleven children, Walter P. being the ninth in order of birth. In the same year that they were married Mr. and Mrs. Marsh came to the United States, locating in New York, where Mr. Marsh followed his trade of wagon maker up to within twenty years of his death, when he purchased a farm in New York, and there spent the balance of his life, his death occurring in 1863, while his wife passed away two years later. In political matters he was originally a Whig and later joined the ranks of the Republican party, and both he and his wife were faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Walter P. Marsh's early education was secured in the New York public schools, the school at Watertown and Adams Academy, and as a youth spent his time in work on his father's farm. In the spring of 1874 he came to Michigan, and after a short time purchased a farm of 200 acres in Clarendon township, on which he has since been engaged in general farming, stock raising and dairying. He erected handsome buildings and finished clearing his land, which he has developed into one of the best farms in the township, and now raises large crops and breeds cattle that bring top-notch prices in the markets. He has ably demonstrated his ability as an agriculturist and his judgments is often appealed to in matters pertaining to farm work. Mr. Marsh is a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted in August, 1864, in Company C, 186th Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, with which organization he participated in a number of engagements, including Danville Railway and Petersburg, and received his honorable discharge in June, 1865.

In 1871 Mr. Marsh was married, while on a trip to Michigan, to Miss Elizabeth Cook, daughter of Sylvanus and Lucy Cook, of Homer township, Calhoun county, prosperous farming people who are now deceased, and to this union there have been born two children: Frederick C. and Henry. In political matters Mr. Marsh is a Republican, and

Hosted by Google

has served in the office of highway commissioner, while he is fraternally connected with the Odd Fellows, and is a popular comrade of the local Grand Army of the Republic post. He and Mrs. Marsh are members of the Presbyterian Church, and both are well and favorably known in religious work and social circles.

AUSTIN PRICE. Born December 22, 1854, on the farm in Clarence township on which he resides and now owns, Austin Price has spent the whole of his life, or nearly sixty years, in this locality and as an upright and worthy citizen stands high in the esteem of his community. His parents, John K. and Clarissa (Price) Price, were numbered among the many emigrants from New York who in the fore part of the last century sought cheaper and better homes in the newer state of Michigan. The father was born in Livingston county, New York, on March 30, 1808, and the mother's nativity occurred in Genesee county of the same state on June 30, 1818. They came to Michigan in 1850, locating first at Albion, where John K. Price followed the coopering business a short time. In 1852 he purchased the farm of fifty-six acres in Clarence township now owned by his son Austin and set to work to clear it and improve it. He built a log house and cooper shop, the former of which the family occupied a number of years, or until the father and son finally replaced it with a comfortable frame residence which remains the dwelling of our subject. He was a successful farmer and at the time of his death in 1874 had made considerable progress in the development of his homestead. He was survived by his wife until 1883. Politically he was a Republican, and both he and his wife were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Of nine children that came to their union but two are now living and Austin is the only one residing in Michigan. Kent Price, the paternal grandfather of Austin, was a native of Baltimore, Maryland, who moved to New York and spent the remainder of his life there. His maternal grandfather Price was a native of New York and spent his entire life in that state.

Austin Price was reared where he now resides and received such educational advantages as the district schools of the time and locality afforded. He knows by actual experience the toil and hardships entailed upon those who developed farms from the wild and timbered lands of Calhoun county even though his period of experience came a score or more of years after settlement had begun in this section of the state, for he helped to clear his father's farm and to bring it to a state of cultivation. He came into possession of the farm in 1871 and has since been engaged in its management, his attention being given to general farming. On his farm are to be seen a number of fine horses, which is indicative of his interest in this direction.

On November 12, 1874, Mr. Price was united in marriage to Amelia Walker, whose father, John Walker, was one of Eaton county's successful farmers during his active years and is still living there at the advanced age of eighty-three years. Mr. and Mrs. Price have one daughter, Almeda, who married Fay Burgess and lives in Jackson county, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Burgess have a daughter, Esther.

Mr. Price sustains fraternal membership in the Modern Woodmen of America, and in political affairs his allegiance is given to the Democratic party.

HEMAN G. ALLEN. A varied and interesting career has been that of Mr. Allen, who has won independence and prosperity through his own well directed efforts and who has maintained his residence in Calhoun county since 1900, when he purchased the fine estate known as the

Hosted by Google

Butler farm, the same lying just inside the city limits of Marshall and comprising one hundred and twenty acres. The farm has a large and attractive brick residence and other excellent buildings and is one of the most desirable suburban demesnes in the vicinity of the judicial center of the county. Mr. Allen finds special satisfaction in the supervising of the operations of his farm and is otherwise virtually retired from active business, after many years of earnest and successful endeavor, the generous rewards of which he is enjoying in the twilight of his long and useful life.

Mr. Allen is a scion of a family that was founded in New England in the colonial era of our national history. His grandfather, Cary Allen, was born in Massachusetts and passed the closing period of his life at Rockford, Illinois, where he died at the patriarchal age of ninety-six years. He whose name initiates this review was born at Lincoln, Addison county, Vermont, on the 25th of June, 1840, and is a son of Almon C. and Mary (Derby) Allen, both of whom were likewise natives of the old Green Mountain state. The father was for many years actively identified with the iron-manufacturing industry, and in 1858 he removed with his family from Vermont to Wisconsin, whence he later transferred his residence to Rockford, Illinois, where he died at the age of seventy-nine years, his devoted wife having lived to the venerable age of eighty-three years. They became the parents of two sons and two daughters, and of the number one son and one daughter are now living. Almon C. Allen was not only a successful business man but was also influential in public affairs, in connection with which he held a number of official preferments and was a prominent advocate of the principles and policies of the Republican party, with which he identified himself at the time of its organization.

Heman G. Allen gained his early education in the common schools of his native state, but the major part of his discipline has been secured under the direction of that wisest of all head-masters, experience. On the 4th of December, 1854, when but fifteen years of age, he severed the home ties and set forth to make his own way in the world. For several years he followed such occupations as he could. He made Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, his destination, where he remained but two days. He then went to Hudson and then to Pepin, that state, a little hamlet situated on the north shore of Lake Pepin, and for several years thereafter he was engaged in carrying mail from that place to various other points in the vicinity; also operated a stage line to Chippewa Falls. He next removed to Wabasha, Rice county, Minnesota, where he engaged in the livery business. In 1863 he disposed of his property and business at Wabasha and removed to Rockford, Illinois, where he established a livery business and also engaged in the buying and selling of horses, many of which were utilized by the government in connection with the cavalry arm of the service in the Civil war. Mr. Allen remained at Rockford until 1882, in which year he disposed of his livery business and went to Chicago to engage in the livery business and in the Arms Car Company, he being vice president and western manager of the latter. The firm name was Arms & Company, which title was retained until 1896, the firm doing a large business in the shipping of horses to all New England points and to various parts of the world. Upon the dissolution of the Arms Company Mr. Allen and Mr. F. W. Lipe, his son-in-law formed the Allen Lipe Hay Company. Mr. Allen became president of the company, a position which he retained until 1900, when the enterprise was dissolved. In 1900 Mr. Allen retired from active business, having in 1899, purchased his present beautiful home within the corporate limits of Marshall on the Verona Road. Since that time he

Hosted by Google

has lived practically retired, save for the attention given to the general supervision of his fine farm, which is given over to diversified agriculture and the raising of excellent grades of live stock.

An active and busy life has been that of Mr. Allen and he has achieved success worthy of the name, the while his course has been so guided and governed as to retain to him at all times the unqualified esteem of his fellow men. He is genial and whole-souled and may well be gratified in finding himself compassed by "smiling plenty and fair, prosperous days." Though he has passed the psalmist's span of three score years and ten he has the vigor of a man many years his junior, and he takes pleasure in devoting himself to his fine homestead, which is one of the most attractive in this section of the state and which he and his wife have made a place of generous hospitality. In politics he maintains an independent attitude and gives his support to the men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment, the while he has never sought or held public office.

On the 12th of December, 1858, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Allen to Miss Ella Gilbert, of Rockford, Illinois, and they have two daughters,—Sadie M., who is the wife of William Lipe, of Toledo, Ohio; and Haidie, who is the wife of C. T. Gorham, of Battle Creek, Michigan. Mrs. Allen died in 1903 and in 1904 he married Miss Addie Nickerson of Chicago.

JAMES W. VAN NOCKER, old resident and one of the best known and most prosperous agricultural men of Convis township, is a native of the state, county and town wherein he now lives, born on the farm he now owns and operates on February 28, 1851. All his life has been lived in the knowledge and companionship of the oldest and best settlers of the district, and he has won to himself, not alone a goodly share of worldly prosperity, but the respect and esteem of the community at large and the friendship of an ever widening circle of good and wholesome people.

The parents of Mr. Van Nocker were Andrew and Julia Caroline (Humphrey) Van Nocker, the former born in New York state in 1798, and whose death occurred in 1884 at his home in Convis township, and the later born in the state of Vermont in 1811. She died at the home of the family on August 10, 1888. Of the life of the father, it is but fitting that some mention be made here, and following facts of his life are thus briefly set forth. As a boy, he enjoyed but very meagre educational advantages, being reared to hard work from his earliest youth. In his young manhood he married Diana Woodward in New York state, and by that marriage became the parent of six children. In the early forties he migrated to Michigan, settling in Calhoun county and locating on a farm near what is now known as Wheatfield station. During his residence there his wife died, soon after which he moved to Penfield township. There he later married Julia Caroline Humphrey, by whom he had nine children, James W. being the sixth in order of birth. A few years after his marriage he bought the farm in Convis township which represented his home until the day of his death, and which is now the home of his son, James W., of this review. He was a patient, quiet and hard working man, and from time to time he increased his land holdings, until, when he died he was the owner of about 380 acres of fine land, being regarded as one of the most successful men in his district in his day. He was of a retiring disposition, never caring for public life or politics of any sort, although he gave his political allegiance to the Republican party, and performed his full share of the duties of a good citizen all his life. In the later years of his life he

Hosted by Google

united with the Baptist church, of which his good wife had long been a devout member. He was a conscientious man, and reared his children in the straight path of moral uprightness, teaching them the value of money and early training them in the work of the home farm. His eldest son, Azel Van Nocker, served in both the Mexican and Civil wars, in the latter being a member of Company A. of Merrill's Horse.

James Van Nocker received some education in the district schools of his home town, but early found it expedient to "shift for himself" as the saying has long been. As a young man he was connected for a time with the Michigan Central Railroad as a brakeman and switchman, remaining with them for about two years. Then, as the other brothers had left the home farm, and his father felt the need of the help of his young and stalwart son, James Van Nocker returned home and took up the duty lying nearest to him. He continued to remain there, and has made the old home place his abode through the passing years, there bringing his wife and rearing his family in the home where he was born. When he was thirty-five years old Mr. Van Nocker married Mrs. Charlotte (Parmenter) Calender, and one son has been born to them,—Clifford, who still resides with his father and assists him in the operating of the farm. Clifford Van Nocker married Mabel Ford of Calhoun county, and they have one son, Kenneth Van Nocker.

Mr. Van Nocker is easily one of the most prosperous and prominent farmers in the community, and is in every way deserving of the success he has achieved with the passing years. He is a Republican in his political faith, but has never showed any preference for the "political plums" of office. He has held the office of township overseer and is a member of the school board, performing valuable service to his township in both positions, and is most highly regarded in his town and county as a citizen of sterling worth.

JOHN W. SELLERS. A successful agriculturist of importance in Convis is Mr. John W. Sellers, a son of the noted pioneer, Solomon Sellers, who is so widely known throughout this part of Michigan. The German blood of his paternal line is mingled with that of the Irish race to which his mother, Sarah Ann Dougherty, of New Jersey, had originally belonged. In Convis township, to which his parents had come from Pennsylvania in 1844, John Sellers was born on the third day of November, 1860.

In his generation of the family four children were born, of whom three lived to maturity and are widely known in this section. Mr. Sellers' brother, Clarence W. Sellers of Battle Creek has been an extensive dealer in stock for a considerable number of years and has also been prominent as one of the organizers of the Albion Coal Company; while his sister, Miss Luella Sellers has achieved an important position as a teacher.

In their childhood John Sellers and his brother and sister received the best educational advantages of the district schools of Convis township, and of the Battle Creek school system; and later studied further in the old Battle Creek College. John Sellers pursued also a specialized business course. His preference has always been, however, for manual employment and his first independent occupation was that of blacksmithing, Bellevue being his residence at that time. After one year of this work, he returned to the more varied and healthful exercise of farm life. The farm on which he then settled has ever since been his home.

In 1887 Mr. Sellers was united in marriage with Miss Vera Andrews, whose parents were of New York birth, both having been born in the same year, 1829; having come to Michigan in childhood, within a few years of each other; and having been married in Bellevue. Of their

Hosted by Google

four children Mrs. Sellers was the second. Her father, who was a dry goods merchant, was one of the gold-seekers in California in the early fifties and during the last years of his life again went to that state. His death occurred in 1903 and that of Mrs. Sellers' mother in 1889. The former was a Democrat in politics and the Andrews family, including Mrs. Sellers, have been active members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The children of Mrs. Sellers and her husband are two daughters, both of a high grade of intellectual attainment. Zella A. is a student at the Michigan State Normal College at Ypsilanti and her sister, Clella B. is a graduate of the same noted institution.

The John Sellers farm consists of one hundred and sixty acres. Besides superintending the labor on his own quarter-section, this able farmer also manages his father's farm of three hundred acres. He is up-to-date in his ideas of farming and is an interested member of the Grange organization.

Aside from his local enterprises, Mr. Sellers is also in touch with political and educational affairs in a local way. He is a Republican of intelligent views and has given public service as township justice and clerk as well as on the board of school directors, now holding the position of moderator of the last-named body, as well as serving efficiently as present justice of the peace. He is also a member of the township board and in this, as well as in every other capacity undertaken by him, is proving his ability.

WILLIAM G. COBURN, superintendent of schools of Battle Creek, and one of that city's foremost citizens, was born in Scotland, not far from Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott, March 27, 1864. When four years of age he came to the United States with his parents, the family locating in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where Mr. Coburn attended the public schools. When he was twelve years old the family went to Richmond Michigan, the father, William Coburn, there following the trade of a blacksmith. His death occurred in Kalamazoo county in 1905, and his widow, who bore the maiden name of Margaret Laidlaw, now resides near Galesburg, in that county. There were four sons and two daughters in the family, one of the sons being now deceased, and William G. is the third in order of birth.

In 1877 William G. Coburn began working on a farm, an occupation which he continued until he was eighteen years of age, spending only four months of each year in the schoolroom. After two years experience as a country schoolteacher, he entered the preparatory department of Kalamazoo College, whence, having completed the sophomore year, he entered the University of Michigan as a junior. He finished the course in 1890, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and also a State certificate. In the fall of the same year he was offered the chair of Greek in an Ohio college, but, preferring public school work, he accepted the principalship of a high school in Minnesota. Returning to his own state after a year in the west, he accepted the superintendency of the Vicksburg schools. Notwithstanding the fact that the schools there were little better than those of rural districts, he improved them after three years of labor by the placing of the high school upon the University of Michigan list for two courses and the school board there showed its appreciation of his ability by raising his salary beyond the limit of the former superintendents. However, this town could not compete with large places, and much to the regret of most of the citizens Mr. Coburn accepted an offer from Allegan, Michigan, such as Vicksburg could not hope to make. There he met with equal success, and in the spring of 1895 he added that school to the University of Michigan list for three courses, viz: B. L.,

Hosted by Google

B. S. and Ph. B. In 1895 Mr. Coburn accepted the superintendency of the Battle Creek schools, and at the present time is holding that position. He belongs to Battle Creek Commandery No. 33, and was commander thereof for two years, and also belongs to the Blue Lodge of Galesburg, and Battle Creek Chapter, and to the Knights of Pythias. His religious connection is with the First Methodist Episcopal church.

On July 3, 1895, Mr. Coburn was married at Galesburg, Michigan, to Miss Nina M. Tobey, daughter of Hiram D. and Margaret M. (Mason) Tobey. Mrs. Coburn was educated in Battle Creek, and is a graduate of the Battle Creek high school and attended the University of Michigan. Her father, a farmer by occupation, is now deceased, while her mother makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. Coburn. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Coburn: Margaret M., Catherine L. and William M., all in Battle Creek. The family home is at No. 14 West street, and Mr. Coburn maintains an office in the Willard Library. Mr. Coburn has made an excellent official, giving a conscientious regard to his duties that has been the medium through which many changes have been wrought in the public school system of Battle Creek. He is highly respected by his numerous acquaintances and associates, and is a man in whom the people of the county in which he resides have great confidence.

LAWRENCE P. HUBBARD. With practically unimpaired mental and physical vitality, Mr. Hubbard is one of the most venerable citizens of all who have continuously maintained their home in Calhoun county, and he has been familiar with its history from the territorial epoch in the annals of Michigan, so that his memory compasses the entire period of the history of this commonwealth as one of the sovereign states of the Union. Mr. Hubbard has had a career of marked activity and usefulness and was long and prominently identified with the agricultural and stock-breeding interests of Calhoun county, within whose borders he still retains a valuable landed estate in Marshall township. This includes his finely improved farm of three hundred acres and also the little farm of sixty acres on which he resides, the latter being within the city limits of the city of Marshall. He is now living virtually retired and is enjoying the well earned rewards of former years of earnest toil and endeavor, the while he has secure place in the confidence and regard of the people of the county which has so long represented his home and in which he is now one of the representative pioneer citizens.

Lawrence P. Hubbard was born in Sherburne, Chenango county, New York, on the 6th of July, 1825, and is a son of Cyrus and Clarice (Preston) Hubbard, the former of whom was born in Massachusetts and the latter in Connecticut, both having been representatives of families that were founded in New England in the colonial days. In 1836 Cyrus Hubbard came to Michigan and purchased a tract of eighty acres of timbered land in Marshall township, Calhoun county. He thus established his home in the county the year prior to the admission of Michigan to statehood, and he contributed his quota to the civic and industrial development and progress of Calhoun county. He added to his holdings until he had a farm of two hundred acres, and both he and his wife continued to reside on their original homestead until their death. Their first dwelling was a log house, twenty-four by thirty feet in dimensions, and in completing the same he purchased lumber pine at the rate of six dollars a thousand feet. Cyrus Hubbard was a man of superior mentality and marked force of character, so that he became influential in connection with public affairs in the pioneer community, in which he was ever ready to lend his co-operation in the carrying forward of progressive enterprises. He was about 76 years of age at the time of his

Hosted by Google

demise and his devoted wife passed away when about 84 years of age. Of their children three attained to years of maturity and of the number one son is now living.

In the pioneer public schools of Marshall, the judicial center of Calhoun county, Lawrence Preston Hubbard acquired his early educational discipline, as he was about eleven years of age at the time of the family removal to Michigan. In a reminiscent way he recalls the circumstance that when a lad of fourteen years he was sent with team and wagon to Detroit, with sixteen barrels of flour, and seven days were required to make the trip. After leaving school he continued to be identified with the work and management of the home farm until he had attained to the age of twenty-six years, when, in 1851, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Henrietta Hotchkiss, who was a graduate of Olivet College and a representative of one of the sterling pioneer families of Oswego, New York. After thus assuming connubial responsibilities Mr. Hubbard purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, in Bedford township, and later he purchased an additional tract of one hundred and twenty acres. He bought the latter in November, for a consideration of four thousand dollars, and sold the same for seven thousand dollars. After disposing of his original farmstead Mr. Hubbard returned to Marshall township, where he purchased an excellent farm of one hundred and twenty acres and turned his attention specially to the breeding of high-grade short-horn cattle. He gained wide reputation in this important field of industrial enterprise, in connection with which he exhibited his stock at state and county fairs and sold many fine animals for breeding purposes, throughout divers sections of the United States. The high class of his stock will be recognized when it is stated that he sold one cow for four hundred dollars and a calf for six hundred dollars. He became one of the leading cattle breeders of this section of the state and continued to be identified with this line of enterprise for many years, in addition to which he utilized his farm also for diversified agriculture. Energetic and progressive and endowed with excellent business acumen, Mr. Hubbard gained large and worthy success, and tangible evidence of the same is shown in his fine landed estate of the present day. He has other investments of a capitalistic order and is one of the substantial men of the county, even as he is one of its best known and most highly esteemed pioneer citizens, and has resided on his attractive little farm, just outside the corporate limits of Marshall, since 1872.

In politics Mr. Hubbard espoused the cause of the Republican party at the time of its organization and supported its first presidential candidate, Lincoln. He voted for Grover Cleveland as the Democratic candidate for the presidency, when he showed his independence and his determinate convictions by supporting the latter. Since that time he has been aligned in the ranks of the Democratic party, though in local affairs he gives his support to the men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment, without regard to strict partisan lines.

On the 16th of July, 1912. Mr. Hubbard celebrated his eighty-seventh birthday anniversary, and that he is one of the youngest of pioneer citizens and gives effective denial of the years that have passed over his head is shown by the fact that one of his chief diversions is to possess himself of a cane pole and other adequate facilities and set forth on a fishing excursion. On each occasion he proves that his ability as a piscatorial artist has not waned. He has a host of friends in the county that has been his home since his boyhood days, and his reminiscences concerning the pioneer era in the history of this favored section of the state are most graphic and interesting.

Mrs. Henrietta (Hotchkiss) Hubbard, the first wife of the subject of

Hosted by Google

this review, was summoned to the life eternal, and the three surviving children of this union are: Cyrus M., a representative merchant of Kalamazoo, Michigan; Susan E., who is the wife of Frank Tillitson, of Marshall; and Helen C., who is the wife of Charles Mayne, of Los Angeles, California. Mr. Hubbard married second Miss Nancy M. Brown, and she passed away in 1905, being survived by two children, Mary M., who is the wife of Frank D. Mitchell, and Clara M., who is the wife of Robert Morrison, of New York city.

WILLIAM C. GAGE. The late William C. Gage was one of the business builders and civic leaders of Battle Creek, and at his death, which occurred on Monday, September 9, 1907, the sense of the community agreed in this estimation and also that one of its fine characters had been removed from the living citizenship.

The late Mr. Gage was born at Pepperell, Massachusetts, January 10, 1842, a son of Caleb and Susan (Claggett) Gage. When he was two years old his parents returned to their native state, New Hampshire, where he was reared and received his early schooling. Over fifty years of his life were spent in the printing trade and business, so that he began his apprenticeship very young, learning the trade at Manchester, New Hampshire. When he first located at Battle Creek, in 1867, he was connected with the office of the old *Review & Herald.* Ill health caused him to return to New Hampshire, where he remained for seven years, and then became a permanent resident of Battle Creek. For a few years he was again with the *Review & Herald,* but in 1883 began independently, on a small scale, a printing business which, under its present form and equipment, is one of the most prosperous concerns of the kind in the state of Michigan. It was his energy, skill and business principles which proved the substantial foundation on which the modern establishment rests. At the time of his death he held the office of chairman of the Gage Printing Company, Ltd., although he had not been active in the management of the business for some time previously.

As a successful business man Mr. Gage had also taken part in the public responsibilities of citizenship. He served as mayor in 1882, and was also a trustee of the public schools and a member of the Board of Public Works for some time. For many years he had been an adherent of the Seventh Day Adventist faith and a member of the local church, his large funeral being conducted at the Tabernacle. His widow, Mrs. Nellie L. Gage, and four children survive him, namely: Fred W. Gage, Frank H. Gage, Mrs. Paul Roth and Mrs. L. C. Coulston.

FRED W. GAGE. The large four-story building at 25-27 McCamly street, North, contains one of the leading enterprises of Battle Creek, the Gage Printing Company, Limited. Besides its facilities for printing, especially for high-class typographical work, the plant includes a bindery, and engraving and electrotyping departments. So extensive are its facilities, that its products go to every part of the state and many other states. Finely illustrated catalogues have been a specialty for a number of years, and the company has also furnished large amounts of printing for the Michigan Central, the Grand Trunk and other railroads. The present officers of the company are: Mrs. Nellie L. Gage, chairman; John B. Neale, vice chairman; Thomas C. Morgan, secretary; Fred W. Gage, treasurer.

The founder of this business was the late William C. Gage, whose career has been sketched above. Associated with his father for many years and finally assuming the responsibilities of the business from him, Fred W. Gage, the company's treasurer, has devoted all his active career

Hosted by Google

to the printing business. Born at Manchester, New Hampshire, April 5, 1866, he spent most of his youth at Battle Creek and completed his education in the Battle Creek College. He became a practical printer in the employ of the old *Review & Herald* while his father was connected with that establishment. He then joined the latter in establishing the independent business of William C. Gage & Sons. Through the energy of its owners, this business has kept pace with the growth of Battle Creek, and now ranks among the leading printing establishments of the state. The building where the plant is located was erected in 1890, and ten years later the business was incorporated as the Gage Printing Company, Ltd.

Mr. Fred W. Gage outside of business is identified with much of the social and civic life of his city. Music has been one of his avocations, and he is president of the Battle Creek Amateur Musical Club. He is himself a pianist of some ability. At this writing he is also president of the Employing Photo Engravers Association of America, is a member of the executive committee of the International Photo Engravers Association, and of the International Electrotypers Association, and is a member of the Chicago Press Club. As secretary he has been of much service to the Battle Creek Chautauqua Association. The Athelstan Club and the local lodge of Elks are his social clubs.

Mr. Gage and family reside at 15 Bidwell street West. He was married in 1887 to Miss Kate M. Amadon, who died in 1909. Their four sons are Harry L., Edwin B., Walter H. and William C.

JAMES M. POWERS. On the roll of Calhoun county's honored and representative citizens is to be found the name of James M. Powers, for many years one of the leading legists of Battle Creek, and still one of the greatest criminal lawyers in the State. Mr. Powers was born in Attica township, Wyoming county, New York, February 17, 1848, a son of John R. and Hannah (Johnson) Powers, the former descended from Irish ancestors who settled in Vermont, and the latter of Scotch extraction, her people having settled in the western part of New York.

James M. Powers was three years of age when his parents came to Michigan and settled in Assyria township, Barry county, and there he passed his boyhood days, working on his father's farm and attending the common schools in the winter until he was twenty years of age. From 1868 until 1876 he taught school during the winters, with the exception of two years which he spent in the pineries, and worked at the carpenter trade in the summer, usually attending normal school in the fall. Many influences were drawing him to the law as a great life labor. His brother was studying law in the University of Michigan, and James went to Ann Arbor with him to stay until the brother got started in his studies. While there he became interested in the law himself and determined to take a full course. On October 1, 1876, he entered the law department of the University of Michigan, graduating in the class of 1878, and was admitted to the bar at Charlotte, Michigan, during the April term of court, 1878. He then practiced alone for a time at Bellevue, Michigan, then removing to Charlotte, where he carried on a general practice by himself until March 1, 1894, then entering into a partnership with one of the priminent attorneys of the central part of the state, under the firm name of Powers & Stine. Mr. Powers gained a wide reputation as a trial lawyer, exercising the greatest care in preparing his cases so as to cover every possible line of attack and defense. He was the Democratic candidate for circuit judge in 1893, but was defeated by a very small vote; was delegate to

Hosted by Google

the Chicago convention in 1896; served as mayor of Charlotte in 1897, and was city attorney there for several years. In July, 1902, Mr. Powers came to Battle Creek and established offices in the Ward building, but after the death of his son, in 1910, removed to suite No. 2, in the Kingman Block, where he carries on an active and representative general practice. His residence is located at No. 291 West Main street. Fraternally, Mr. Powers is a Royal Arch Mason, member of Blue Lodge No. 12 of Battle Creek and Royal Arch of Charlotte and the Council of Charlotte, and in politics, since the nomination of Theodore Roosevelt has voted the Republican ticket in national matters, although in local affairs he reserves the right to vote for the man he deems best fitted for the office at state, irrespective of party lines.

On December 27, 1877, occurred the marriage of Mr. Powers with Miss Eliza Davis, of Assyria township, Barry county, Michigan, where her father was one of the solid and substantial farmers of the community. Three sons were born to this union: LaVerne, Harold and Leslie. Leslie took a course as electrician but his health failed and so he is living quietly at his father's home. Harold graduated in Business College at Battle Creek, studied in his father's office, was bookkeeper two years and three years with Nichols & Shepard as stenographer and is now doing a profitable mail order business in Battle Creek for himself. Harold married Mabel Kelsey of Battle Creek and they have a son, Harold J., born March 25th, 1909.

LaVerne Powers, who was known as one of the most able trial lawyers of the younger generation in the state, was born at Bellevue, Eaton county, Michigan, October 2, 1879, and after graduation from the high school entered the law department of the University of Michigan. He was admitted to the bar in April, 1902, by the Supreme Court of Michigan, and took charge of his father's practice in Charlotte. About two years later he joined his father in Battle Creek, and was engaged in practice with him in the Ward building until his death, July 3, 1910, although he had also conducted an office in Marshall, Michigan, for a short period. With an excellent training, natural inclination for his profession and inherited ability, he had a brilliant future before him, and his death was a distinct loss to the profession as well as to the many friends who had been drawn to him by his attractive and manly qualities. In September, 1902, he was married to Miss Estella Wollford, of New York, and to this union a daughter, Jane Lucille, was born April 22, 1910. The widow and child now make their home in Battle Creek.

David Henning Frazer. To a former generation one of the names most intimately associated by the citizens of Calhoun county with business sagacity and enterprise was that of David Henning, often called the "apple king" of Michigan. Though not a regular resident of this county, he was known personally and through business relations to hundreds of apple raisers and citizens generally throughout this section of the state. His name and family, however, are permanently represented in Battle Creek by his grandson, David Henning Frazer, vice president of the Battle Creek Gas Company, who has been identified with this city since 1898 and is prominent in business and civic affairs.

Mr. Frazer was born in Chicago, March 14, 1876, a son of Sidney L. and Mary L. (Henning) Frazer. His father, who was a native of Covington, Kentucky, was a stock broker of Chicago, where he died in April 1911. The mother, who was born at Ann Arbor, is now living in New York City. David Henning, her father, who died in April, 1901, spent most of his life as a resident of Chicago, though his business inter-

Hosted by Google



O. H. Frazer.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

ests were of such varied scope that he was practically a citizen of many communities. His business as an apple dealer brought him in contact with the producers of this fruit in many states, and he had his apple stations all along the line of the Michigan Central. In his later years he retired from this business, and then became interested in gas nnd electric lighting enterprises. His capital and management were in the gas and electric plants at Leavenworth, Kansas, Springfield and St. Joseph, Missouri, and in 1898 he bought the principal stock in the Battle Creek Gas Company, of which he was president up to the time of his death, and part of the time was a resident in this city.

David H. Frazer is the oldest of three children. His sister is the wife of S. J. Rathbun, of the Rathbun-Kraft Lumber Company at Battle Creek, and his brother, Sidney L., is a resident of Grand Rapids.

Dr. Frazer was reared and educated in Chicago until he was nineteen, at which time he became connected with the management of his grandfather's plant at Springfield, Missouri. Three years later, in 1898, he took charge of the gas company in Battle Creek. At that time only six hundred patrons used the product of the company's plant; now there are over six thousand customers, and the business has been developed to one of the most important of the public service facilities of the city. Mr. E. Henning, an uncle of Mr. Frazer, is president of the company and resides in Chicago, while Mr. Frazer is vice president, treasurer and general manager.

As a citizen Mr. Frazer has taken an active part in many of the progressive movements of his home city. He served as president, during 1908-9, of the Battle Creek Industrial Association, and was president of the Michigan Gas Association in 1908. He is a member of the Elks club in Battle Creek, and was president of the Athelstan Club from October, 1910, to the same month in 1911. He is also a member of the Country Club, of which he was vice president in 1910, and for the past nine years has been a member of the vestry of St. Thomas Episcopal church. He and his family reside at 65 Orchard avenue.

December 1, 1899, at Springfield, Missouri, Mr. Frazer married Miss Hattie Hubbell. She was born and received her education in Springfield. Her family goes back a number of generations in American history, and as a member of the Daughters of the Revolution is a lineal descendant of one of the patriots of '76. Her father was L. W. Hubbell of Springfield. Her grandfather, E. C. Leach, was prominent in early Michigan history, was one of the men who founded the Republican party in their famous convention at Jackson. During the Civil war he was one of Michigan's congressmen, and also served in the state legislature. For a number of years he was editor of the *Traverse City Herald,* and at one time held the position of government Indian agent.

Mr. and Mrs. Frazer are the parents of four children: Ruth Shelton, David Henning Jr., Mary Elizabeth and Barbara Leach.

Hon. James Green, was born in Littleport, England, on October 5, 1840, and died in Battle Creek, Michigan, July 27, 1900. He came to America in 1844 with his parents who first settled in Stratford, New York, but later came to Michigan. In 1852, James Green, then a lad of twelve years, came to Battle Creek and made his home with the family of the late Charles P. Coy, then residing on what is now the Foster farm at Goguac lake. When a young man he came into the city, believing that with his particular ability success for him lay in mercantile pursuits, a decision which his successful career has amply justified. In 1873 Mr. Green, who had for some time been connected with the Sweetland & Smith Lumber Company of Battle Creek, became associated with Messre. Mason & Rathbun, who had in 1868 estab-

Hosted by Google

lished a lumber yard at the location now occupied by the Grand Trunk transfer depot, and who purchased the Sweetland & Smith business when Mr. Green became a member of the firm. The three partners, William H. Mason, F. M. Rathbun and James Green, had previously been associated together considerably in a business way, and they worked together in a spirit of harmony and unison which was productive of generous results in a financial way, and which was broken only by the death of Mr. Rathbun a few years previous to the death of Mr. Green in 1900. Even at his death the interests of Mr. Rathbun were not withdrawn from the firm, but it was continued under the same name until January, 1899, when the old firm was succeeded by Messrs. Rathbun & Kraft. The Advance Thresher Company, for some time a slender organization, had in 1883 branched out into a flourishing institution, and Mr. Green, who, with his partners, Messrs. Mason & Rathbun, were among the earliest members of the concern, became general superintendent of the company, and he remained the incumbent of that important position until his death occurred. As superintendent of the Advance Thresher Company, he was warmly regarded by the hundreds of employes of that concern over whom he had general supervision, and it is perhaps not too much to say that nowhere was his loss felt more acutely than among the employes of the company of which he was superintendent and a member of the directorate for so many years. As a citizen of the highest rank, he was invaluable to the city. He was always a leader in any enterprise or movement tending to elevate the best interests of the community and his loss was keenly felt in a civic way, as well as from the more personal viewpoint. Mr. Green was an enthusiastic Republican, always active in the interests of the party, but he was averse to publicity of any sort and disliked public office. He was prevailed upon on one occasion to become a candidate for the office of mayor of Battle Creek, and he was elected to the office by a flattering majority, filling the place with credit to himself and his city. In his capacity as a citizen, he was known to be thoroughly honest, of unimpeachable character, kindly, straightforward and outspoken. In his residence of nearly a half a century, he found secure position in the esteem and love of his fellow beings. He was a member of the Independent Congregational church, and always an earnest worker in and a generous supporter of that organization. He was also a member of the Battle Creek Lodge of the Knights of Pythias.

In February, 1870, Mr. Green was married at Richland, Michigan, to Miss Cornelia Kellog, at the home of Mr. Coy. Their union was a thoroughly happy affair, and one son came to them, Charles C., whose life is outlined elsewhere in the pages of this work. Mrs. Green passed away on March 17, 1898, preceding her husband by a brief period only.

Edwin S. Lewis. Although he has been considerable of a wanderer, living in many places and pursuing several different occupations, Edwin S. Lewis has finally settled in the locality of his birth, and, so far as present appearances give any indications, he expects to pass the remainder of his life there. He is living on a fine farm of 160 acres, known as the "Old Church Farm," which was obtained from the government by one of his ancestors and has never been out of the family since. He also owns another tract of fifty-five acres of superior land, and has one of the most valuable and beautiful rural homes in Marengo township, and one that has few superiors of its size anywhere in the country.

Mr. Lewis was born in the village of Marshall, Calhoun county,

Hosted by Google

Michigan, on March 19, 1858, a son of Seth and Celina (Church) Lewis, the former a native of Vermont. The father came to Marshall when a young man and founded the *Marshall Statesman.* Three children were born in the family: W. R., who is a resident of Marshall; Eber Ward, who died in infancy, and Edwin S.

The father was a Republican in politics and served as postmaster of Marshall three terms. In fraternal relations he was a member of the Order of Odd Fellows, and he and his wife both belonged to the Presbyterian church. They were held in the highest esteem throughout the county and deserved the regard and good will so freely bestowed upon them. For they were upright and progressive citizens, manifesting always a keen practical interest in the progress and improvement of their locality and the enduring welfare of all its residents in every way.

Edwin S. Lewis was educated in the schools of Marshall. His first engagement after leaving school was as a clerk in the postoffice, a position which he filled for three years. At the end of that period he went to Nebraska, and during the next two years he was employed on a large cattle ranch in that state. He then entered mercantile life as a partner of Frank Davis, the firm being known as Davis & Lewis. A little while afterward he bought Mr. Davis' interest in the business, and during the next three years conducted it alone.

His next venture in business was as a merchant at Eckford, this county, where he also served as postmaster, remaining three years. From Eckford he returned to Marshall and for some time engaged in the manufacture of windmills. But he still had a warm spot in his heart for Nebraska and went back to that state. There he followed farming six years and afterward handled farm implements for three years at Elba, Nebraska. But Marshall kept beckoning him back with a winning hand, and he once more came to that town, but not to remain in it. He located on his ancestral homestead, and on this he has been living ever since.

On this farm and his other one of fifty-five acres, of which mention has been made, he carries on general farming on an extensive scale, conducts a large and active dairy business and raises large numbers of superior Holstein cattle, making each branch of his business bring him in handsome returns by the vigor, skill and excellent judgment with which he conducts them all, the intelligence he applies to them and the general good management of his affairs which he displays.

On October 31st, 1883, Mr. Lewis was united in marriage with Miss Frances A. Adams, a daughter of John Adams, who has been a resident of Marshall for about forty-six years, and several times mayor of the town. He was at one time an extensive manufacturer of brass and iron products, and made all the brass and iron castings for the Michigan Central Railroad. He has been a very successful man and is well and favorably known throughout this county and a large extent of the surrounding country, in fact in all parts of Michigan and the adjoining states.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis have five children: Allan Adams, who lives in Toledo, Ohio, and is in the employ of the Toledo Computing Scales Company; Mary Hortense, who was educated in the Marshall High School and is living at home with her parents; Dorcas Laura, who also is a graduate of the high school and still a member of the parental family circle; and Elizabeth M. and John D., who are still living with their parents also.

Mrs. Lewis is a member of the Episcopal church, which Mr. Lewis and the other members of the family also attend. In fraternal relations he is a Freemason and holds his membership in St. Albans Lodge

Hosted by Google

in the order. In politics he is a firm believer in the principles of the Republican party and an earnest and effective worker for its success in all campaigns. He has never been an office-seeker, but served two terms as treasurer of the city of Marshall. He is not only one of the leading farmers in his township, but one of its leading citizens in reference to the control of public affairs and the promotion of public improvements and general progress. The people in all parts of the county have a high regard for him and look upon him as one of their most enterprising, useful and representative men, commendable for the judicious way in which he manages his private affairs, and also for his interest in the general welfare.

HERMAN C. MARKS. As a living example of what resolute working, earnest endeavor and indomitable perseverance will accomplish, Herman C. Marks stands prominent among the worthy citizens and successful agriculturists of Lee township. Throughout his career he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits and through his own efforts has accumulated a well-cultivated tract of land in Lee township, in addition to which he is conducting his mother's farm in the same locality. Mr. Marks was born in Germany, July 8, 1870, and is a son of Edward and Amelia (Marine) Marks.

The father of Mr. Marks was a native of the Fatherland, and was born in 1840, his wife, also a native of Germany, having been born the year previous. Mr. Marks died in February, 1912, while his widow survives him and lives in Calhoun county. They were married in Germany, soon after which time, Mr. Marks seeing only long years of hard labor in front of him in his native land, with but little hope of ever becoming independent, he decided to try his fortune in the new world and accordingly set sail for the United States. After landing at New York, he made his way to the town of Albion, Michigan, where he secured employment as a railroad laborer. At the start he had no financial means, but by thrift and industry, assisted by the good management of his wife, he managed to accumulate enough to invest in a farm of eighty acres in Lee township, and later bought other land until he owned 155 acres, in addition to a nice house and lot in the town of Marshall. During the later years of his life he became very successful, and was regarded as one of his township's substantial men. He and his wife had a family of six children, of whom four are living at present: Bertha, who married Julius Nagle and lives in Marshall; Henry, living in Clarence township, Calhoun county; Mary, who married William Smith, and lives in Detroit; and Herman C., who is the oldest. Edward Marks was a Democrat in his political belief, and with the members of his family, attended the German Lutheran Church.

Herman C. Marks was educated in the district schools of Lee township, and resided on the home farm until 1892, in which year he purchased his first land. At the present time he owns sixty acres of land, but is giving his attention also to the cultivation of his mother's property in Lee township, which he is working on shares. He is acknowledged to be a competent agriculturist, and as a man who has been the architect of his own fortunes has the respect and esteem of those with whom he has come into contact.

Mr. Marks was married in 1898 to Miss Ida Hart, daughter of Andrew Hart, who resided all of his life in Angola, Indiana, where he is a successful farmer and stock raiser. Mr. and Mrs. Marks are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He takes a decided interest in the work of the Gleaners, of which he is an active member, and in politics is a Republican, but outside of keeping himself posted on all

Hosted by Google

matters pertaining to the welfare of the township, has not given much attention to public affairs. Both he and his wife have numerous friends in Lee township, where the family is well known.

HOMER A. CLUTE. The manufacturing, financial and industrial interests of any community are the source of great pride to its citizens, but it is to the farms that the country eventually must turn for its support, and in the hands of the agriculturists lies the possibility of the country's prosperity or depression. Calhoun county has its full quota of manufacturers, financiers, statesmen and members of the various professions, but particularly is it noted for the high standard set by its agriculturists, who have done so much in the past few years towards making this county one of the garden spots of the state. One of the successful agriculturists of Lee township, and a native born citizen of Calhoun county, is Homer A. Clute, who was born in Lee township, March 4, 1872, a son of Henry A. and Florence (Crossman) Clute.

Henry Clute, the paternal great-grandfather of Homer A. Clute, was descended from one of the early Dutch families of the Empire State, three brothers of the name settling in Esopus Meadows soon after the founding of New York City. Henry L. Clute, son of Henry, and grandfather of Homer A., resided at Johnstown, New York, his native city, until thirty years of age, and was there married. He engaged in tanning as well as the manufacture of gloves, and about 1835 removed to Wayne county, New York, where he followed the latter occupation. He also engaged in the manufacture of mittens and in the tanning business there until 1842, at which time he traveled through the West buying deer skins to use in his business. At Windsor, Michigan, he exchanged the money he had brought from the East into "Wild Cat" currency, and not being able to secure the number of skins that he had expected, decided to remain in the new country, subsequently investing in eight acres of land in Convis township, at what is still known as Clute's Corners. Soon afterward, Mr. Clute returned to New York, and in 1844 brought his family to Michigan, journeying by canal to Buffalo, thence by lake to Detroit, and across country to the new property by team. He settled upon his land and added to it until he had 400 acres, continuing to reside thereon until his death in 1855. His widow survived him for a long period of years.

Henry A. Clute, father of Homer A., was born in Wayne county, New York, and was a son of Henry L. and Alazan (Rhodes) Clute, the latter a representative of an old Connecticut family. Henry A. was but four years of age at the time he was brought to Michigan by his parents, and his education was secured in the district schools, supplemented by a short attendance at Olivet College, this, however, being cut short by the death of his father, when he was compelled to take charge of the home farm. That he was an industrious, capable and hard-working lad is shown by the fact that when he was but nine years of age, he hauled seventy cords of wood by a yoke of oxen, over the roads in the midst of winter to Marshall, receiving one dollar per cord when delivered. The outbreak of the Civil War found him hard at work on the home property, and it was not until August 30, 1862, that he felt he could leave the family. On that date he enlisted in Company H, Merrill's Horse, an organization then in the field. He joined his command at Mexico, Missouri, and the regiment was engaged in scouting duty all through Missouri, but in 1863 went to Little Rock, Mr. Clute, however, being left at the general hospital at Ironton, being troubled with defective eyesight. He was subsequently put on detached

Hosted by Google

duty at St. Louis and treated by a specialist there, and on recuperating rejoined his regiment, with which he served to the close of the Civil War. Returning home, he added to his property and had 387 acres of land in his Calhoun county tract, in addition to 160 acres in the state of Kansas, where he lived from 1882 to 1885. He was engaged in farming and stock raising until his retirement in 1895, since which time he has lived in Marshall, and sold his last land in 1911. For many years he has been connected with the Grand Army of the Republic, being a member of Colegrove Post, of which he was commander in 1903. Formerly a member of the Republican and Greenback parties, at present Mr. Clute is a Democrat, and has served three terms as a member of the board of supervisors of Lee township and one term as a member of the state legislature. In 1867 he was married to Florence Crossman, who died in the faith of the Methodist Church, September 10, 1888, and they had a family of eight children, as follows: Charles, who lives in Marshall; Schuyler, living in Western Kansas; Homer A.; George, living in Convis township, on a part of the old homestead originally settled by his grandfather; Harry, living in Chicago; Grace, who married Fred Wilbur and lives in Ypsilanti, Michigan; Sydney, living on a farm in Marengo township; and Josephine, living with her sister in Ypsilanti.

Homer A. Clute received his education in the district schools of Convis township, following which he attended a business college at Battle Creek for one winter term. Returning to the home farm he worked for one year by the month and another year on shares, and in 1897 purchased 188 acres of the home farm, on which he erected a beautiful country home, modern in every respect and equipped with the latest conveniences, as are his substantial barns and outbuildings. His success in life has been due to his own efforts as he started his career with no advantages other than those of an alert mind, willing hands and determined spirit. He is an automobile enthusiast, owning his own car, which he finds helps him not only in facilitating the discharge of his business duties, but also is a source of much pleasure in taking trips to various points in the state. Fraternally, he is connected with St. Alban Lodge No. 20, A. F. & A. M., of Marshall, and the Chapter at the same place, and he and Mrs. Clute are regular attendants of the Baptist Church. A stalwart Democrat in his political views, he has taken an active interest in public matters, and has served as supervisor three terms. Personally, the wide circle of warm personal friends which has been drawn about him, testifies to his popularity with all classes.

In 1895 Mr. Clute was united in marriage with Miss May Carver, a native of Lee township, where her father, Henry Carver, of Calhoun county, settled at an early day. He still resides in Lee township, where he is the owner of a well-cultivated farm. Mr. and Mrs. Clute have one child, Bernadine, a bright pupil in the township schools.

FRANK B. GARRETT. It is always pleasing to the biographer to enter into an analysis of the character and career of a tiller of the soil. Of the many citizens gaining their livelihood, he alone stands a totally independent factor. His rugged honesty and sterling worth are the outcome of a close association with nature and in all the relations of life he manifests that generous hospitality and kindly human sympathy which beget comradeship and which cement to him the friendship of all with whom he comes in contact. Successfully engaged in diversified agriculture and the raising of cattle, Mr. Frank B. Garrett is a prominent citizen of Calhoun county, Michigan. He is the

Hosted by Google

owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres in Pennfield township, where he has resided during practically his entire life time.

Frank B. Garrett was born in Pennfield township, Calhoun county, Michigan, the date of his nativity being the 4th of March, 1856. He is a son of Caleb and Harriet (Bellace) Garrett, the former of whom was born in Canada, the latter being a native of the old Keystone state. Caleb Garrett was a son of Isaac Garrett, who was a British soldier in the war of 1812 and who lived to the patriarchal age of ninety-nine years and eight months. He came to Pennfield township in 1848 and here passed the balance of his life. Caleb Garrett was a young man of twenty-five years when he accompanied his father to Pennfield township in 1848. He was engaged in farming during the greater part of his active career and died in 1910, when in his eighty-eighth year of life. His wife died at middle age. He was a Republican in his political faith after the formation of that party.

Frank B. Garrett was educated in the district schools of this township, and he also was privileged to attend the State Agricultural College at Lansing and the Parsons Business College of Kalamazoo. In 1893 he purchased a farm consisting of 140 acres of land. He inherited a tract of sixty acres from his father's estate, all of which is now under cultivation.

With reference to his political affiliations, Mr. Garrett is a staunch Democrat, and he is a member of the Grange. On January 16, 1883, Mr. Garrett was united in marriage with Miss Frances E. Olmstead, a daughter of Norman Olmstead, who was born and reared in Vermont and who came to Michigan in the 40's. For twelve years Mr. Olmstead ran the stage between Battle Creek and Hastings, after which he engaged in farming. One child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Garrett,—Harold C., who is now (1912) attending Michigan Agricultural College.

Reuben J. Emery. One of the oldest citizens and foremost agriculturists of Sheridan township is Reuben J. Emery, who was born June 13, 1849, in a log house that then stood in the yard of his present home. Here his whole life has been spent and has been so ordered as to secure for him the high regard of his fellow men both for his personal character and business ability, and to make him one of the representative men of Calhoun county.

Reuben Emery, his father, born near the Delaware river in 1817, was a native of Pennsylvania who came to Calhoun county, Michigan, in 1835. The first few years he worked by the month in Marengo township; then in 1843 he bought 500 acres in Sheridan township and this forms the present homestead of our subject. Until his death on March 15, 1863, he gave his attention assiduously to the cultivation and improvement of this large estate and from the beginning his efforts were attended by success. A stanch Abolitionist, he was one of that memorable group that gathered under the oaks at Jackson in 1854 when that band of patriots brought into being the Republican party as an expression of their convictions and determined purpose. Reuben Emery was twice married. His first wife was Harriett L. Rositer, who died leaving a child that shortly afterward joined her in death. His second marriage was to Mrs. Sarah Fanning nee Austin, who was born in New York in 1815 and died in Michigan June 7, 1887.

Reuben J. Emery, the subject of this review, is the only child of this union now living and was but thirteen years old when his father died. A part of his father's estate had been in litigation over twenty years and the case had been carried before the supreme court several times, costing the elder Mr. Emery thousands of dollars. At the age of seventeen the son took charge of the place and began his labors of restoring

Hosted by Google

it to its former condition, the property having suffered from neglect during the years of litigation and after the father's death. Gradually the young man accomplished his purpose, continuing the work that had been begun by removing stumps, repairing old buildings and adding new ones and developing and improving the homestead in various ways. Mr. Emery now owns 450 acres and his farmstead is one of the most valuable in Sheridan township. On this farm was established the old Abbott tavern and the Waterburg postoffice, the latter of which at that time included the people of Albion among its patrons as there was then no office at the latter place. Here also was the old Waterburg sawmill, which sawed the lumber for families for miles around and which stood in front of the Emery home. Mr. Emery still owns the water site.

For the last twenty years Mr. Emery has been extensively engaged as a stockman and in some directions had been engaged in the stock business some fifteen years earlier. He raises large numbers of Ramboulett sheep and has always been a premium winner at the different fairs at which he has been an exhibitor.

On August 23, 1871, Mr. Emery was united in marriage to Miss Ella L. Bunn, whose parents Matthew and Mary (Burt) Bunn were natives of New York state and were early settlers in Calhoun county, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Bunn established their home in Marengo township, where Mr. Bunn became prominent in the public life of that community. Mrs. Emery was born in Marengo township August 31, 1852. She was educated in the public schools of Battle Creek and in Albion College, of which latter institution she was a student one year, and taught school for a number of years. Mr. and Mrs. Emery have two children, a son and a daughter. Their son Elmer K. Emery married Miss Mellie Cary, of Marshall township, and to their union has been born a daughter Thelma. Aura L. Emery, the daughter, married Bruce Fish and now resides on a farm in Marengo township.

Mr. Emery is a member of the Independent Order of Foresters. He is public-spirited in civic affairs and stands for moral progress both in public and private life, and as a means toward that end he is a warm advocate of temperance. In political views he is aligned with the Progressive Republicans. Like his father, it has been his to participate in the organization of a new party to fulfill a purpose for which the old parties have seemed to have inadequate power of accomplishment. He took a prominent part in the convention at Jackson, Michigan, on July 20, 1912, when the first state ticket of the National Progressive party for Michigan was nominated. In 1896 he was a candidate for sheriff and, although defeated by a small margin, he led his ticket by 360 votes. He served as president of the Citizens of Calhoun County Mutual Fire Insurance Company several years and for five years was president of the Calhoun County Agricultural Society. It is to citizens of Mr. Emery's type that Calhoun county owes its progress and strong prestige as a commercial and agricultural center. Mr. Emery also served as a director of the Central Michigan Agricultural Society at Lansing for ten years. Also member of school board for fifteen years.

HENRY LEHMANN. One of the representative business men of Ceresco, Michigan, is Henry Lehmann, who is there engaged in a general merchandise business and is accounted one of the sterling men of that community. Mr. Lehmann comes directly of German ancestry and through his useful activities has helped to sustain the high opinion in which the German-American citizen is almost universally held in this country.

He was born in Chicago, Illinois, August 21, 1874, the eldest son of Joseph Lehmann and his wife, whose maiden name was Sophia Reincke.

Hosted by Google

Both parents are natives of Mecklenburg-Schwern, Germany, where the father was born in 1847. They were married in the Fatherland in 1870 and that same year came to the United States, locating first in Chicago, where they remained until 1877, in which year they removed to Calhoun county, Michigan. Joseph Lehmann had followed various occupations during his residence in Chicago, but on coming to this county he purchased a farm of 120 acres in Newton township and has since given his attention to agricultural pursuits. He has subsequently bought other land but still remains a resident of Newton township. Both he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church. The seven children that have been the issue of this union are as follows: Henry, the subject of this review; Carl, now a resident of Battle Creek, Michigan; William, a farmer residing at East LeRoy, Calhoun county; Frederick, who resides with his parents; Minnie, now Mrs. W. Hines, of Woodland, Michigan; Anna, who is the wife of B. W. Owens and resides at Battle Creek, Michigan; and Martha, now Mrs. Clyde Warsop, of Tekonsha township, Calhoun county.

Henry Lehmann was but a child when his parents removed to Calhoun county and he has therefore spent practically his whole life here, securing his education in the common schools of Newton and Fredonia townships. Until 1906 his attention was given to agriculture, the vocation to which he had been reared, and for seven years he farmed on the shares in Newton and Marshall townships. He then removed to Ceresco and opened a hardware store, but after conducting this business two years he sold out and purchased from E. B. Phelps a general merchandise business at Ceresco, which he has since conducted.

In 1898 Mr. Lehmann married Miss Dora Bartehard, whose father William Bartehard died when she was an infant. Her mother remarried, becoming the wife of Henry Reincke, and now resides in Tekonsha township of this county. Mrs. Lehmann was the seventh of eight children born to her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Lehmann have one son Arthur C. Lehmann, born September 10, 1901.

In political views Mr. Lehmann is a Republican, and he is the present township clerk of Marshall township, which office he has now filled two years. His religious creed is that of the Lutheran church, in which faith he was graciously reared by his parents, and fraternal ties are sustained as a member of the Ancient Order of Gleaners.

GARRETT D. BLAKE. The profession of farming, as now practiced by the intelligent and progressive agriculturist, is as different from the operations of several decades ago as could be imagined. The day of the work-hardened, horny-handed farmer is over. In these days scientific treatment of the soil has displaced the old hit-or-miss style and among our country's most prosperous citizens will be found agriculturists. Among this class may be mentioned Garrett D. Blake, of Marshall township, Calhoun county, Michigan, the owner of a finely-improved tract of land and one of his community's best citizens. Mr. Blake was born December 3, 1843, in Albany county, New York, and is a son of James D. and Jane Ann (Donaldson) Blake.

James D. Blake was born in Albany county, New York, June 6, 1817, and died November 14, 1887, while his wife passed away March 5, 1898. They came to Michigan in 1861, settling on a farm in Marengo township which consisted of seventy-two acres, and two years later moved to the farm on which Garrett D. Blake is now living. During the remainder of his life he continued to be engaged in farming and hog breeding, became well known throughout the township, and so conducted his affairs as to win the universal respect and esteem of his fellow townsmen. He

Hosted by Google

was a Republican in his political views, and he and his wife were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church. She was a daughter of Peter Donaldson, a successful miller of New York, who had a family of eleven children. Mr. and Mrs. Blake had two sons: James H., who is deceased; and Garrett D.

Garrett D. Blake was educated in the district schools and reared to the occupation of an agriculturist, which he has followed all of his life. He remained at home and assisted his father until his marriage, when his father died he left him the old homestead, and there Mr. Blake now carries on operations. He is progressive in his methods and scientific ideas have always governed his operations, while the use of modern power farm machinery has greatly facilitated his work. During his long residence here he has formed a wide acquaintance, and he has numerous friends throughout the county. He is independent in his political tendencies, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

On April 19, 1870, Mr. Blake was married to Miss Helen C. Crossman, and three children were born to this union: Howard, who resides at home and assists his father in the work of the farm; Harry, connected with the Western Union Telegraph Company, at Battle Creek; and Luther, who studied mechanical draughtsmanship and is now employed in a patent office in Kalamazoo.

Luther G. Crossman, father of Mrs. Blake, was born in Oneida county, New York, son of Nathaniel and Mercy (Pratt) Crossman, natives of Taunton, Massachusetts, from where they removed to Deerfield prior to 1807. The grandfather was a carpenter by trade, but on locating in Deerfield took up the vocation of agriculturist. Luther G. Crossman was born February 10, 1808, and as a young man assisted his father on the farm and subsequently learned of him the carpenter's trade. At this he worked during the summer months, while in the winter terms he taught the district school, so continuing until coming to Calhoun county, Michigan, in February, 1832. Purchasing a farm in 1832, he spent the next five years in carpenter work, and then settled down to agricultural pursuits in Marengo township. On April 19, 1837, Mr. Crossman was married to Miss Amanda M. Burlingame, daughter of Eseck and Lucy (White) Burlingame, natives of Rhode Island who moved to Massachusetts. Mrs. Crossman was born at Governeur, St. Lawrence county, New York, July 15, 1818, and with her parents removed to Herkimer county. When she was nine years old she was taken to West Bloomfield, Ontario county, New York, where she was married to Mr. Crossman. Her grandfather Burlingame was a Revolutionary soldier and was one of the party that surprised the British general Prescott at Newport. In 1832 Mr. Crossman aided in building the first frame barn and dwelling in Calhoun county, for Mr. Bertram, a farm dwelling 30x40 feet, there being a grand festival and jollification. Sidney Ketchum held one post, General Crary another, John D. Pierce a third, and old Lemuel Spencer acted in the role of general utility man. Mr. Crossman was first a Whig and later a Republican, and in 1884 he and his wife joined the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Crossman died April 7, 1879, and his wife April 12, 1899.

EDWARD F. HOUGH, who is established in the general merchandise business at Ceresco, Calhoun county, Michigan, was born on a farm in Emmet township of this county on November 4, 1855, and is a representative of a family long residents of this locality, his father, John Hough, having settled in this township about 1837. The Hough family originated in this country with William Hough, son of Edward, of Westchester,

Hosted by Google

Cheshire county, England, who came to America in 1645. John Hough was a native of New Hampshire, his birth having occurred at Lebanon, Grafton county of that state on the 25th of December, 1816. He grew to young manhood amid the hills of his native state, but when he had attained his majority he came to Michigan and located in Emmet township, Calhoun county, where he purchased a farm and resided on it many years, his abode during later years, however, having been on a farm that he had purchased near Wheatfield. At the age of twenty-four he was married to Eliza Harper, of Calhoun county, Michigan, whose parents had settled here in 1831 and were among the early pioneers of the county. To this union were born five children, of whom David, Henry and Helen are deceased. The other two children are Charles Hough and Edward F. Hough of this review. Mrs. Hough died in 1891 at the age of fifty-eight and was survived by her husband until 1898 when he too passed away. John Hough was a Democrat in politics and was a well known and prominent man in this locality, having served for a time as a member of the Michigan state legislature.

Edward F. Hough spent his early life on the farm in Emmet township and obtained his education in the district schools of that locality and in the public schools at Battle Creek. After school days were over he took up the duties of the home farm, finally assumed its sole management and continued to conduct it until he sold his farm interests and took up the general merchandise business at Ceresco, which has since been his line of endeavor.

In 1887 he was united in marriage to Miss Isadora Hoffmann, the youngest child of Thomas and Elizabeth Hoffmann, farmer residents of Emmet township. Mr. and Mrs. Hough have three children, namely: John, a graduate of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, who is now with the General Electric of New York City; Edna, who has taken up the profession of teaching and is now employed in Newton township; and Mary, a high school student at this time.

Mr. Hough gives his political allegiance to the Democratic party. He is the present supervisor of Marshall township and has now filled the office for four years. Fraternal associations are sustained as a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of Gleaners. In the three-quarters of a century that this family has been established in Calhoun county its members have ever maintained a high standard of citizenship and their name is one which stands for true worth and attainment.

GILBERT B. WHITE. Born in the township of his present residence and on the farm which he now occupies and cultivates, and which his grandmother took up in a totally wild and unbroken condition from the government, Gilbert B. White of Convis township, Calhoun county, Michigan, bears an unusual relation to the soil in this locality and presents in his history elements of unusual interest. He represents the third generation of his family in occupancy and tillage of the same tract, and the difference in its condition now from what it was when the place came into the possession of the family represents not only the achievements of its successive occupants in cultivating and improving it, but also the general progress of this region since civilization was first planted in it.

Mr. White's life began on this farm on July 17, 1874. He is a son of William N. and Amanda (Gilbert) White, the former also born on this farm, the date of his birth being October 1, 1847, and the latter a native of Eckford township, this county. The paternal grandparents were Reuben and Chloe (Fish) White, who came to Michigan at an early

Hosted by Google

date and were among the first pioneers of Convis township. Reuben White was born and reared in Connecticut and his wife in the state of New York. On their arrival in this county Mrs. White took up a homestead of 120 acres of land, a portion of Gilbert White's present farm, as has been noted, and on this she and her husband passed the remainder of their lives.

Their son, William N. White, succeeded them in the possession of the farm, and on it he has ever since made his home. He is now traveling for a large establishment that manufactures and handles aluminum ware, but his wife still resides on the family homestead. They became the parents of seven children, five of whom are living, Gilbert being the oldest of them. In political relations and service the father is a Prohibitionist; in religious connection he is a Presbyterian, and in fraternal life a Freemason. While never an office seeker or desirous of political prominence, he has served as township clerk and treasurer with credit to himself and decided benefit to the township and its residents, and is favorably remembered for the excellent record he made in these offices as well as highly esteemed for his progressiveness as a citizen and his genuine worth as a man.

Gilbert B. White obtained his education in the district schools. He began farming on the home place on his own account at an early age, and here he has followed the plow ever since with increasing prosperity and in the most advanced and enterprising manner. In addition to his general farming industry, he raises numbers of graded Durham cattle, and is widely and favorably known for his success and intelligence as a live stock breeder as well as for his skill and advanced methods as a farmer.

Mr. White was married on Nov. 27, 1891, to Miss Mattie Loumis, a daughter of Guy Loumis, one of the pioneer farmers of Convis township. Four children have been born of the union: Thera, Guy and Glenn (twins), and Esther. Thera is a student of Marshall and Guy, Glenn and Esther are in school near their home. The farm on which they live now comprises 140 acres, and is one of the best and most highly improved in the township. It shows in every phase of its appearance and condition the care and intelligence with which it is cultivated, and is considered a very valuable piece of property.

In politics Mr. White is a pronounced Democrat. He was elected township clerk in the spring of 1912, which makes second tenure of this office, he having been elected to it in 1904 and held it after that for four years in succession. He has also served several years as a member of the school board, and like his father, he has given the people of the township excellent service in every office he has held. Of the fraternal societies so numerous among men he has membership in but one, the Patrons of Husbandry, but in this he takes a warm, constant and practical interest, doing everything in his power to make it as useful as possible, and seeing in it a source of great benefit to the agricultural interests of the country. This is in line with his general attitude toward everything which involves the welfare of his township and county. He is always enterprising and progressive in connection with the public weal, and withholds no effort possible on his part to aid in its promotion. The residents of Calhoun county hold him in the highest esteem as a man and as a citizen, and he is well worthy of the regard they bestow upon him.

CALVIN J. HOTCHKISS. Owning one of the finest farms and country residences in Marshall township, Calhoun county, and standing high in the regard and good will of all classes of the people, Calvin J. Hotchkiss

Hosted by Google

might justly feel proud of his work as a self-made man and the success he has achieved in life, if his good sense and genuine modesty did not forbid him to indulge in any self-laudation in word or thought. Like all men of genuine merit, he does not overrate either his abilities or his achievements, but is thankful for his opportunities for advancement in life and for the possession of the manhood and good judgment to make the most of them.

Mr. Hotchkiss was born in Ohio, on May 19, 1854, and is a son of Calvin and Sarah (Ives) Hotchkiss, natives of Connecticut, where the father was born in 1816 and the mother in 1810. The father journeyed from his native state to Ohio, when he moved to that great commonwealth, in a single wagon, and arrived at his destination with only $5 in money. He was resolute and self-reliant, however, and lost no time in getting a start in his new home. He bought eighty acres of land, which he cleared and improved. He afterward bought more land, and kept on buying and improving farms until he owned 300 acres, all of which was in his possession at the time of his death.

He and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom Calvin J. came fifth in the order of birth. The mother was a devout member of the Methodist Protestant church, and the father belonged to the Republican party in his political relations. The grandparents on both sides of the house passed the whole of their lives in Connecticut, and their forefathers were residents of that state from an early period in its history.

Calvin J. Hotchkiss was educated in the public schools of his native state, preparing himself in the district schools and completing his course in the high school in Malta, which he attended one winter. He was reared as a farmer's son and began life for himself in the occupation to which he had been trained. He purchased eighty acres of land and cultivated that tract until 1906, when he came to this county and bought the farm of 140 acres which he now owns and lives on. He has made a very superior farm of it and has it improved with a fine dwelling house and other necessary buildings in keeping with this.

On March 23, 1884, he was married to Miss Emma Wood, a daughter of Thomas Wood, a carpenter and shingle maker who passed the whole of his life in Ohio, whither his parents moved from Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Hotchkiss have four children living. Aro G. is a school teacher; Edgar resides on his father's farm; Harry is living at home with his parents, and Raymond is in school. They are all creditable representatives of the family and are held in cordial esteem by the people all around them.

Fraternally Mr. Hotchkiss is a member of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, or the Grange, as it is popularly called. In politics he is a Republican, and as such served four years as township assessor in Morgan county, Ohio, before leaving that state, where he was prominent in local public affairs. In Calhoun county he also stands well in the estimation of the people, and shows that he is entitled to the esteem they bestow upon him by his interest in their welfare, his enterprise with reference to the progress and development of the county and the elevated and useful character of his citizenship in all particulars. He has made his own way in the world without help from the outside, except $1,200 which he got from his father's estate after he was well established in life.

GEORGE C. HAIGH. Standing high in the regard of his neighbors and associates as a farmer, and so firmly fixed in their confidence and esteem as a man and citizen that he has repeatedly been elected to public office

Hosted by Google

by a constituency with a majority opposed to his political beliefs and alliances, George C. Haigh, one of the substantial and enterprising residents of Convis township, Calhoun county, Michigan, occupies an enviable position in the estimation of the people around him. And this is all the more creditable to him since he has attained it by his own ability and industry in his business and his unvarying uprightness and straightforwardness in all the relations of life.

Mr. Haigh was born in the township of his present residence on July 21, 1864, and is a son of James and Azelia (Crothers) Haigh, the former a native of Yorkshire, England, born in 1812, and the latter of the state of New York, where her life began in 1822. The father came to the United States in 1833, and sometime afterward located at Battle Creek in this state. For a number of years he worked at his trade as a weaver in Battle Creek, then bought a farm of 100 acres in Eaton county, on which he lived for a time. Later, however, he returned to this county and bought a farm in Convis township, on which he passed the remainder of his life.

The mother's real name was Van Allen, but in her childhood she was adopted by a Mr. and Mrs. Crothers, her mother having married Mr. Crothers, and then she was given their family name. She was married to Mr. Haigh in 1847 in Battle Creek, and they became the parents of seven children, four of whom are living: Addie, who is the wife of Charles Walkinshaw; Fred, who is in business in Battle Creek; Nellie, who is the wife of Charles Hall and lives in Detroit, and George C. The parents were members of the Baptist church, and in his political relations he was a Democrat, loyal to his party and zealous in its service. He died on July 4, 1899, having survived by five months his wife, who passed away in February of the same year. He was a very successful man in his several occupations, having begun life with nothing in the way of capital and dying possessed of a comfortable estate. He was a son of James Haigh, who also was born in England and who passed the whole of his life in that country.

George C. Haigh was reared and educated in this county acquiring his academic training in the district schools. He began life for himself as a farm hand, and after a few years of steady industry in this line of work, went to Battle Creek in 1900, and there he remained eight years engaged in the feed trade. In 1909 he bought the farm on which he now lives and located on it at once. It comprises 120 acres of first-rate land, and he has brought it to an advanced state of cultivation and richly improved it from the condition it was in when he took possession of it. In farming this land in a general way he finds plenty to do and feels no temptation to seek any other occupation or line of effort.

Mr. Haigh was married on January 10, 1894, to Miss Florence White, a daughter of Joseph and Emma (White) White, the former born near Sandusky, Ohio, in 1847, and the latter in Milton, Pennsylvania. They now live in Lee township, this county, where the father owns a fine farm of eighty acres. Four children were born in the family, Mrs. Haigh being the first in the order of birth. She was educated in the district schools and the high schools at Olivet in Eaton county. She is a member of the Baptist church, and Mr. Haigh finds social enjoyment and good associations in the Order of Odd Fellows, of which he has long been a member, and in which he has for years taken an active and helpful interest.

In political faith and allegiance Mr. Haigh is warmly attached to the Democratic party. Yet notwithstanding this he was elected township supervisor in the spring of 1912 by a majority of thirty-two votes although the township is normally a Republican one in its political com-

Hosted by Google

plexion. This is a strong proof of his enterprise, public spirit and intelligent and serviceable interest in the welfare of his township and county. He also served as township clerk five or six years, and made an excellent record in that office, as he is making in the one he now holds at the time of this writing, the summer of 1912.

Having been the architect of his own fortune, and having built it well and substantially, Mr. Haigh is entitled to all the credit due to a self-made man in the best sense of the term. But while he has been closely attentive to his own affairs, and made them profitable to him, he has never slighted the interests of his township or those of Calhoun county in general, but has always done his full share toward promoting them and the enduring welfare of the residents of this part of the state. They all esteem him highly as one of their most substantial and useful citizens.

JOHN C. COOPER. Born on a farm and reared as a farmer's son, and afterward working several years in the farming industry, but now one of the leading merchants of Marengo township, Calhoun county, and also successful and enterpriseing as a fire insurance agent, John C. Cooper of the village of Marengo illustrates in his career the great uncertainty of foretelling any man's destiny or occupation in this land of great diversity of employments and almost boundless opportunity. His case is but one of millions of instances in which men enter upon the stage of action in one pursuit and are found before many years have passed in an entirely different one. And it is a proof of the versatility of American manhood that a very large number of them succeed in everything they undertake, as is true of Mr. Cooper

Mr. Cooper was born in Monroe county, New York, on August 31, 1854, and is a son of John and Mary (Buckley) Cooper, who were born, reared and married in Ireland. The father's life began in 1829 and the mother's in 1825. They came to the United States in 1847 and located in the state of New York, where they remained, industriously engaged in farming, until 1856, when they moved to Michigan. Here the father bought a farm of 120 acres in Marengo township, and on this farm the parents died, the mother in 1893 and the father in 1910. The father was a Democrat in his political faith and allegiance.

Four children were born of their union, of whom John C. was the second in the order of birth. His older sister Ella has her home with him. Their brother Thomas died in 1910, and their other brother, Frank, lives in Marengo township and is engaged in farming and raising live stock. A sketch of him will be found on another page of this work. The grandfathers of these children were Thomas Cooper on the father's side and Martin Buckley on the mother's. Both passed the whole of their lives in Ireland, where their families had been domesticated for many generations.

John C. Cooper was educated in the district schools of Marengo township, as he was but two years old when his parents moved to this county. He assisted his father in the labor on the farm while attending school and after completing his education, and then remained with his parents for some years afterward. He began life for himself on a farm and conducted its operations until 1902; but previous to this he determined to turn his attention to merchandising and in 1895 founded the general store which he has ever since been keeping at Marengo. In 1895 he was made postmaster of this village and he held the office continuously for fourteen years thereafter.

On June 4th, 1884, Mr. Cooper was united in marriage with Miss Julia M. Crossman, a daughter of Luther G. and Amanda (Burling-

Hosted by Google

ame) Crossman, natives of New York state who came to Michigan sometime in the thirties, and passed the remainder of their lives here successfully and profitably occupied in vigorous and enterprising farming operations. They stood well in their community, too, as citizens and in social life, and were regarded throughout the county as most estimable and worthy persons.

Mr. and Mrs. Cooper have two children, their daughter Agnes and their son Stuart F. Agnes is a school teacher employed in Lagrange, Illinois. She obtained part of her education in a summer school at Ypsilanti and was also graduated from the high school at Albion, and attended college at Albion also. Stuart F. is now in Memphis, Tennessee. He attended the State Agricultural College at Starkville, Mississippi, where he made an excellent record in his studies and also attained high rank as an athlete, being prominent and effective in the football, basket ball and base ball teams.

Mrs. Cooper is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, which her husband also attends. He is a member of the Democratic party in his political relations, and always true and loyal to his party although not what may be called an active partisan. Neither has he ever been a seeker of public office or desirous of political prominence, but he has served as township clerk in response to a demand from the people of the township for his services. For he has proven himself to be a progressive and enterprising citizen, warmly interested in the advancement and improvement of his township and county and zealous in assisting to promote the welfare of their residents in every way open to him.

He has a good and growing business in his store, which is a popular mart for a large extent of the surrounding country, and in addition does considerable work in writing fire insurance. Both in his business and in general relations to the community he is a leader of thought and action, and is universally esteemed throughout the county as one of its most useful, enterprising and representative citizens, always ready for any duty for the general well being and giving a fine example of elevated manhood in all the relations of life and in all respects.

WILLIAM FRANCIS LESLIE, M. T. D. The restoration of minds and bodies congenitally weak or weakened by disease and misuse is a subject which within recent years has forced itself upon mankind and gained the practical attention and study of the wisest leaders of every race. The subject covers a much broader field than the ages-older one of medicine and surgery. To make life more efficient, to develop the latent powers of the human being, to substitute wholesome vigor for the defective physical machine—these are objects of attainment that are far in advance of the old school of therapeutics and disclose a field of possibilities the results of which are yet undreamed of.

In one branch of this distinctively modern science, W. F. Leslie, Doctor of Mechano-Therapy, has made a very notable record during his residence at Battle Creek. He is a graduate of the American College of Mechano-Therapy at Chicago, and is the leader in this line of practice in the state. The chief maxim of the science of Mechano-Therapy is "Permanent health through perfect circulation," and it is around this principle that he has conducted his work with such excellent success in Battle Creek. By a scientific combination of food, circumstances, ideas, water, and motion for the stimulation of physiological action by mechanical and other means, he has in hundreds of cases succeeded in establishing a normal condition of the body, and has accomplished results such as the regular physician would not attempt or claim as within the powers of his profession. Dr. Leslie has never

Hosted by Google



Dr. W. F. Leahi M. D.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

relied on extravagant claims in building up his professional success. By manipulation or artificial exercise of the body, under attendant conditions to favor the process, he promotes the restoration of powers and organs that have atrophied or diseased, and the evidence of his patients has been the means of his increasing success.

Dr. Leslie has had an interesting career and is a man of varied attainments. He was born in New York City in 1877, his birthplace being on Fourteenth street between Fourth and Fifth avenues, in the heart of the downtown section of the metropolis. His father, Solomon F. Leslie, was a Rusian Jew, a native of Russia, and his mother, Augusta P. (Lear) Leslie, was born at Greenbach, Germany. The father, now deceased, was one of Tiffany's diamond settlers. The mother is now a resident of Battle Creek.

Dr. Leslie was reared in New York City until he was twelve years old, attending the public schools there. He was then in Williamsport and Bradford, Pennsylvania, for seven years, and during the last sixteen years he has been a resident of Battle Creek. For seven years he was a nurse in the Battle Creek Sanitarium, after which he took charge of the physical culture, Swedish and bath rooms at the Phelps Sanatorium. For a part of this time he worked at the barber's trade, but all this work was merely a means to an end, until he could perfect himself in his profession. In January, 1909, he was graduated from the American College of Mechano-Therapy at Chicago, and since then has been engaged in regular practice in Battle Creek. He has practiced in this branch of therapy longer than any other in the city. He has the best possible equipment for the successful performance of his work, and has all the practice he can conveniently care for.

Among the followers of aquatic sports and in athletic organizations throughout the country, Dr. Leslie has for a number of years enjoyed a reputation as a swimmer of most varied and remarkable skill. In connection with Professor Haylock, known as the champion swimmer of Michigan, he has given numerous exhibitions in cities throughout the country, and as a demonstrator of scientific swimming Dr. Leslie is probably without a peer in the country.

Dr. Leslie was a member of the National Guard of Pennsylvania at the age of eighteen, during his residence in that state. He is a graduate nurse of the Michigan Sanitarium at Kalamazoo. In music he has also attained proficiency as a clarionet player, and was formerly a member of the Pennsylvania Regimental Band, one of the crack military bands in the United States. Fraternally Dr. Leslie is a member of the Battle Creek Elks. Possessing all these varied accomplishments, Dr. Leslie has done more than gain merely personal success. He has done much disinterested service from the impetus of professional zeal, and is constantly giving his influence toward the promotion of saner and better living among all classes of people. He is both a practitioner and a teacher, and is deservedly held in high esteem in his home city.

RUFUS F. KATZ, an enterprising young farmer of Fredonia township, Calhoun county, Michigan, was born on the farm on which he now lives, December 13, 1882, son of John and Minnie (Walbeck) Katz.

John Katz was born in Germany in 1838. When he was quite young, the Katz family emigrated to America; or, rather, they all started to America, but on the voyage over, the father and one daughter died and were buried at sea. John, with other members of the family, shared

Hosted by Google

the vicissitudes of life in a new land, with little means for maintenance. Finally, he was "bound out" for several years to a farmer. On reaching manhood, he came to Calhoun county, Michigan, where he found employment on farms, and was a wage worker until he was twenty-seven years of age. He saved his earnings and in time had a farm of his own. His first purchase of land was eighty acres near Burlington. Subsequently he sold this and bought a tract of land near Lyon Lake, which he owned at the time of his marriage, in 1865. The following year he bought the home farm on which his son Rufus F. now lives, and still later he bought twenty acres of Newton township. On the home farm, which consists of 130 acres, he spent the rest of his life and died, his death occurring in 1907. His wife, Minnie (Walbeck) Katz, was a daughter of Conrad and Magdeline (Kint) Walbeck of Fredonia township. She was born in 1847, and died in 1910. Their children, two daughters and two sons, are Lizzie, wife of Arthur J. Gleson; Mattie, wife of William Mohrhardt; Frank, of Marshall, Michigan, and Rufus F. The parents were members of the Lutheran church, and, politically, the father was a Democrat.

Rufus F. Katz was reared on his father's farm, and has continued to reside here, devoting his energies to agricultural pursuits. After the death of his mother, he bought the interest of the other heirs, and now owns the whole of his father's landed estate, which consists of 210 acres. An important feature of his farming operations is his stock. He breeds Percheron horses, Durham cattle, Shropshire sheep and Poland China hogs, horses, however, being his specialty.

August 17, 1910, Rufus F. Katz and Mary Kennedy were united in marriage, and they are the parents of one child, Nile Leo Katz. Mrs. Katz is a daughter of James and Mary Kennedy of Missouri.

Like his father, Mr. Katz is Democratic in his political affiliations.

GEORGE E. CHAPIN. Many of the successful young agriculturists of Calhoun county are engaged in cultivating land formerly owned by their fathers, having come into possession of it through inheritance, and are continuing to carry on operations with the same degree of success that attended the older men's efforts. In this class stands George E. Chapin, of Marengo township, administrator of the estate of his late father and one of the enterprising and progressive business men of his section. Mr. Chapin was born in Marengo township, Calhoun county, Michigan, October 11, 1878, and is a son of Edward Franklin and Ellen S. (Conger) Chapin. His father, also a native of Marengo township, was born December 25, 1847, and during his entire life was engaged in agricultural pursuits. He spent a large part of his time in raising stock, and became very successful in his operations, accumulating 360 acres of land. His death occurred March 16, 1909. His wife, still lives in Marshall, and they had two children: May, who married Thomas R. Lusk, of Marshall; and George E. Mr. Chapin was a Republican during the greater part of his life, but became a great admirer of William Jennings Bryan, and adopted the principles of the Free Silver Democrats. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church. The paternal grandfather of George E. Chapin, Samuel Chapin, was a native of New York, and came to Michigan in 1834, taking up land from the government, and continued to live in the township during the rest of his life. He became widely known throughout the county and was regarded as one of the substantial men of his community. His death occurred in 1888. The maternal grandfather of Mr. Chapin, Jacob Conger, was also born in New York, and on com-

Hosted by Google

ing to Michigan settled in Hillsdale county, where he carried on farming and merchandising.

After graduating from Marshall high school, in 1897, George E. Chapin attended Albion College two years, and then took a trip through the West and South, spending two years in farming in Alabama. Following this he returned to Michigan, and for three years clerked in a store in Battle Creek, eventually returning to the old homestead at the time of the death of his father, whose administrator he is. An energetic, industrious business man, with large responsibilities, he adds materially to the industrial and agricultural importance of Marshall, where he has a comfortable modern home. He is a Republican in politics, but has found no time to engage in public affairs, although he manifests a good citizen's interest in all matters that influence his community's welfare. Fraternally he is connected with Battle Creek Lodge No. 12, F. & A. M., and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Chapin was married in 1906, to Miss Louie McWethy, daughter of Reuben H. McWethy, a lifelong farmer, veteran of the Civil war, and prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, who is now living in Albion. The family moves in the best social circles of Marshall, and its members have numerous friends.

GEORGE W. HARVEY. Starting in life for himself with no capital but his skillful hand, his active brain and his resolute spirit, which saw success was possible to him and determined to win it, George W. Harvey, who owns and operates a large saw mill and hard wood lumber factory in Marshall township, this county, has shown by his career that he did not overestimate his capacity to both see opportunities for advancement and make the most of them when he seized them. He has been very successful and has won his way wholly by his own unaided efforts and his excellent management of his affairs.

Mr. Harvey is a native of Calhoun county, and was born in Athens township on August 13, 1857. He is a son of Israel and Rhoda (Davis) Harvey, the former born at Manchester, New Hampshire, in 1814, and the latter in the state of New York on July 4, 1822. The father was a son of Jonas Harvey, who passed the whole of his life in New Hampshire. He was a farmer and also owned and operated a large saw mill. His wife died when her son Israel was but five years old, and he was therefore from childhood without the considerate and directing care of a mother.

He came to Michigan in 1835. He and his wife were early settlers at Marshall, where they located on their arrival in this state, and saw this part of the country in its state of almost primitive wilderness. Mrs. Harvey, who is still living at the advanced age of ninety years, tells of seeing the first train go over the Michigan Central Railroad, and many other interesting experiences of the early days of her residence in this county. During the Civil war she was a widow living on a farm, her husband having died in 1859. She had a hard time to rear her family, and while the sectional strife in this country lasted she was obliged to undergo many hardships and privations, and other portions of her long life have been by no means free from care and have laid her under strong requisitions for endurance and fortitude. These qualities, however, she has always shown in a degree that made her equal to all the demands of her situation. She is a daughter of Lemuel and Clarissa (Allen) Davis, who lived all their lives in Franklin county, New York, and attained to far advanced ages.

Israel Harvey, the father of George W., was a cabinet maker, and

Hosted by Google

for a time after his arrival in this state worked at his trade. He then bought a farm of eighty acres in Athens township and lived on that until his death, which occurred in 1859, as has been noted, when his son George W. was but two years old. Five children were born in the family. Charles, the first born, is in the livery business in Athens. Isabelle, the second child, married H. H. Brownell, and after his death became the wife of Rev. John McDonald, a Baptist clergyman. They are now living in Elgin, Illinois. Francis E. died a number of years ago. George W. came fourth in the order of birth, and the fifth child is Jennie, who married George Clearwater and resides at Greenville in this state.

The father was a Democrat in his political faith and allegiance, and filled a number of township offices. He also served some years as captain of a company in his home town, something like those which compose the state militia. The mother now makes her home with her son George. She is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church, attentive to all the duties enjoined in its teachings in her daily life, and is venerated as one of the most worthy and estimable matrons in the county.

George W. Harvey had no facilities for education except those furnished by the district schools, and he was not allowed to attend these with any degree of continuity or regularity. The death of the father when the son was only two years old put the family in hard straits, and each member of it was obliged to go to work as soon as sufficient size and development were attained for the purpose. He began work in a saw mill at Muskegon, Michigan, where he was employed twelve years. At the end of that period he returned to Calhoun county and erected a saw mill and established a hard wood manufactory of his own, locating his plant on the site it occupied for a number of years, and from which it was moved to the present site on April 1, 1911. At the old location he was very successful, cleaning up $21,000 in six years, and at the new one he conducts a very extensive business carrying on an average 500,000 feet of lumber in his yard, and finding the other features of his trade in keeping with this large stock.

Mr. Harvey was married in 1887 to Miss Camilla Weeks, a daughter of William and Camilla Weeks, early settlers in Calhoun county. Three children have been born of the union, all of whom are living. Mark is in the United States navy, was in China, now in San Francisco and will be home September 18, 1912. Paul works for his father in the mill and lumber business; and Ruth is a pupil in a business college in Battle Creek.

The mother is a member of the Baptist church, which the other members of the family also attend. The father is a Freemason fraternally and holds his membership in Athens Lodge No. 220 in the order. He is also a Royal Arch Mason and belongs to Chapter No. 146 at Athens. In politics he is independent, looking only to the best interests of his community and his country in the bestowal of his suffrage, and not governed by partisan considerations to any extent, but always zealously attentive to the duties of citizenship. The people regard him as an excellent citizen and worthy of their highest esteem, which they freely accord him.

JESSE C. STAGE. A resident of Calhoun county for more than forty years, Mr. Stage is one of the extensive landholders of this section of the state and is senior member of the firm of Stage & Casey, who conduct a large and prosperous business in the buying, feeding and shipping of cattle, in connection with which they own and utilize a tract

Hosted by Google

of about twelve hundred acres in Calhoun county, the home farm of Mr. Stage being situated in Marshall township and being one of the admirably improved places of the county. The firm of which he is a member is one of the most important of the kind in this part of the state and controls an extensive business in the shipping of live stock. Mr. Stage is well known throughout southern Michigan and his careful and honorable business methods have indicated his sterling integrity of character, with the result that he commands unqualified popular confidence and esteem.

Jesse C. Stage was born in Otsego county, New York, on the 20th of September, 1848, and is a son of Ryner and Katherine (Richard) Stage, the former of whom was born in Otsego county and the latter in Livingston county, New York, in which state they passed their entire lives, the father having devoted virtually his entire active career to agricultural pursuits. He whose name initiates this review was reared to the sturdy discipline of the home farm and in his native county received a good common-school education. In 1871, soon after attaining to his legal majority, he came to Michigan and established his home in Calhoun county. He engaged in farming in Marshall township, where he has continuously maintained his residence during the long intervening years and where, through earnest and well directed endeavor he has won large and worthy success. He finally began to deal in live stock on a modest scale, and as prosperity increased he expanded the scope of his operation in the feeding and shipping of live stock, the while he increased the area of his landed estate from time to time until he now has a fine farm of five hundred acres. He formed a partnership with Garrett M. Casey, under the firm name of Stage & Casey, and this effective alliance which was effected more than 30 years ago has since been continued. The firm has become extensively engaged in the buying of stock, much of which is secured from the great Chicago stock yards, and on the extensive lands controlled by the firm the stock is properly fed until in first-class order for shipment. The operations of Stage & Casey cover a wide range and their methods have not only given them high standing but have also brought to them a large measure of success, the while they have contributed much to the industrial prosperity of Calhoun county.

In politics Mr. Stage is a staunch advocate of the principles of the Democratic party, and while he takes a lively interest in public affairs he has been too busy to desire or hold official preferment.

In December, 1872, Mr. Stage was united in marriage to Miss Julia Tomlinson, who was born and reared in Watertown, Connecticut and whose father, the late John Tomlinson, settled in the county in 1856. Mr. Tomlinson became one of the successful pioneer farmers of this county and was a citizen of prominence and influence.

Mr. and Mrs. Stage have an adopted daughter Mary, now Mrs. Millard Gardinier, of Marshall.

ISAAC SNYDER. A citizen of prominence and influence at Athens, in Calhoun county, Michigan, is Isaac Snyder, who is president of the Athens Hardwood Lumber Company, an important industry incorporated with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars. Mr. Snyder is a man of loyalty and public spirit and his citizenship has ever been characterized by the support of all measures and enterprises projected for the good of the general welfare.

A native of the fine old Keystone state, Mr. Snyder was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, November 18, 1850, and he is a son of George Snyder, whose birth occurred in Pennsylvania, whence he re-

Hosted by Google

moved to Monroe county, Michigan, with his family in the year 1852. In his native state George Snyder was a cabinet-maker by occupation and a great deal of his time was devoted to making coffins from rough lumber to meet the demands of his trade. After his arrival in Michigan he followed the trade of carpenter for a number of years and gradually became interested in farming enterprises. At one time he was the owner of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Monroe county, but in 1865 he disposed of that estate and removed to Kalamazoo county, where he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land, which he cultivated until his death. His father, George Snyder, Sr., accompanied him to Michigan in 1852, but subsequently returned to Pennsylvania, where he died. George Snyder, Jr., married Elizabeth Hoover, who was born and reared in Pennsylvania. They became the parents of thirteen children, ten of whom are still living at this time (1912).

Isaac Snyder was the sixth in order of birth among the thirteen children of his parents, and was an infant of but two years when his family moved to Michigan, in which state he was reared and educated. As a youth he attended the district schools in Monroe and Kalamazoo counties during the winter terms and during the summer seasons he worked on his father's farm. On reaching his majority he learned the trade of a sawyer and when he was twenty-five years old purchased a saw mill in Sherwood township, Branch county, this state, where he remained for about five years, at the expiration of which he removed to Union City, and in that vicinity he operated his sawmill until 1885, when he came to Athens, here continuing his interest in the milling business. For a time he was the owner of a mill some two and a half miles east of this place and subsequently he built up the business now known as the Athens Hardwood Lumber Company, which was incorporated under the laws of Michigan, with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars. He was formerly secretary and treasurer of this concern, but is now its president and general manager. Mr. Snyder is a man of executive ability and capacity and the position he now occupies in the business world is entirely the outcome of his own well directed endeavors.

Mr. Snyder is a staunch Republican and gives his support to that party at all times. He was at one time a member of the Grange, but is now no longer affiliated with that worthy society.

In the year 1875 Mr. Snyder married Miss Uranie Kindy, a daughter of David and Eliza (Culp) Kindy, residents of Kalamazoo county during the latter years of their lifetime. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder have one son, Paul D., and an adopted daughter, Eva May.

SAMUEL FOX, well and favorably known among the agriculturists of Fredonia township, was born in Marshall, Calhoun county, Michigan, on the third day of February, 1849, and is the son of John and Angeline (Hagenbaugh) Fox. Both were natives of Pennsylvania, the father born there in 1820 and the mother in 1827. They came to Michigan in 1848, locating in Marshall, Michigan. In 1849 John Fox purchased a small tract of land from the government, to which he added later by purchases from individuals thereabouts, until he held an acreage of one hundred and twenty acres, that representing the extent of his holdings at the time of his death. He was a man of great industry and energy, and with his own hands he cleared the most of his farm, erecting himself the buildings which one by one appeared on the place, and in every way showing himself a true pioneer and worthy citizen of a new district. He there reared his family and died there in 1891, his wife following him some years later, in 1905. They became the parents

Hosted by Google

of four children: Clara, deceased; Ida, also deceased; Samuel of this brief review; and Rosa Belle, living in Kalamazoo. John Fox was a Republican in his political beliefs, but was never a politician. The family were members of the Lutheran church, in which church the father was reared in his Pennsylvania home, where his worthy parent, John Fox, was one of the well and favorably known men of his community.

Samuel Fox attended the district schools as a boy at home, and early began to assist his father in the work of the homestead, remaining thus until he reached his legal majority. He then became connected with the carpenter business and gave his time and attention to that work for a period of thirteen years, after which he was employed in the store at Marshall, and later at Burlington and Eckford, his service in those three places aggregating thirteen years. In 1895 he bought out the interests of the remaining heirs to his father's farm, and since that time he has been engaged in carrying on the work of the old farm, in which he has been singularly and pleasingly successful. He has proved himself a farmer, and in addition to the general farming which he carries on, does considerable in the way of stock raising. His farm of one hundred and twenty acres is one of the best kept and most productive spots in the township, and is in every way a credit to the man as well as the farmer.

In 1897 Mr. Fox married Miss Ida E. Wright, a daughter of Myron W. Wright, a native of Vermont who came to the state of Michigan in the early fifties, and is now a resident of Fredonia township. They became the parents of three children;—LaVerne married Arlington Sebring and lives in Fredonia; Jessie and Inez are still in the parental home. Mrs. Fox is a member of the Evangelical church. In his political persuasions, Mr. Fox is a Republican, and is active in the best interests of the party in his district. He is a valuable citizen, and his towns folk have honored him in his election to the office of township treasurer. Mr. Fox is a self-made man of a very creditable type, and is in every way deserving of the high place which he occupies in the community which has represented his home and the center of his business activities practically all his life.

Lote C. Robinson. In naming the representative citizens of any community, we invariably find among the most prominent the men who started out in life with little or no advantages, and who have worked their way to the top through their own perseverance and industry. One of the most successful farmers of Eckford township, and a man who has been an influential factor and active worker in public affairs, Lote C. Robinson, may be named in this class. He was born in Battle Creek township, Calhoun county, Michigan, November 15, 1857, and is a son of Solon E. and Mary Jane (Granger) Robinson.

Solon E. Robinson was born in Orleans county, New York, August 17, 1820, and in 1836 came to Michigan with his older brothers, settling in Tekonsha township, from whence he hauled his grain by ox-team to the market at Jackson. After accumulating a farm in Tekonsha township, he disposed of it and moved to Battle Creek township, just south of the city, and there purchased 160 acres of land. Although he had but little to start on he was a hard and industrious worker and became very successful. From Battle Creek township he moved to LeRoy township, and eventually secured the farm in Eckford township on which Lote C. Robinson is now carrying on operations, and on which he first located in 1867. There he resided until his death in 1899. A Republican in politics, he was prominent in the affairs of his day, serving in the State Legislature in 1873, and both he and his

Hosted by Google

wife were faithful members of the Baptist church at Marshall. He was married in 1845 in Tekonsha township, to Mary Jane Granger, who was born January 29th, 1824, at Sweden, Oswego county, New York, and to this union there were born five children: James C., who resides in California; Francis L., of Chicago; Adrian D., living in South Haven, Michigan; Chauncey C., who is deceased; and Lote C. The mother of these children passed away in 1909.

Lote C. Robinson received his education in the district schools and the school of hard work, or as he himself aptly expresses it, "graduated from the university of hard knocks." His early life was spent in working for his father, and after the death of his parents he bought the property from the other heirs, and on this tract of 100 acres he still carries on operations. He has devoted himself assiduously to general farming, but has also found time to interest himself in public affairs, and, like his father, has been prominent in Republican politics. For two years he served as treasurer of Eckford township, was also township clerk for two years and served as chairman of the county committee for six years, and in 1903 was sent to represent his district in the State Legislature. In all these offices he displayed much executive ability and a conscientious regard for the duties of his position, thus firmly establishing himself in the confidence and esteem of his fellow townsmen. He has made an enviable reputation as a man of sound judgment and unquestioned integrity, and is recognized as a champion of progress and good citizenship.

December 15, 1880, Mr. Robinson was married to Miss Fannie Overy, daughter of Thomas and Fannie Overy, of Sheridan township, the former of whom met his death in a railroad accident when Mrs. Robinson was a small child. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have one son: Solon Thomas Robinson, who now lives at home and works on the farm, although he spent four years in the county clerk's office, and one term in the auditor's office at Lansing. Fraternally, Lote C. Robinson is connected with the Knights of Pythias, at Marshall, the Modern Woodmen of America, at Homer, and the Knights of the Maccabees, at Eckford.

EDWIN A. RANDALL. Impelled by native force of character, and with the stimulus of high examples from his sturdy ancestry on both sides of the house to incite him to action, Edwin A. Randall, one of the progressive and far-seeing farmers and live stock men of Convis township, this county, has been true to his inward promptings and also to the lessons of the past in his family, and has used all his opportunities for advancement among men to good advantage and with gratifying results. He began life for himself on a small scale. He is now a man of worldly substance in good degree and stands well in the estimation of all who know him. The path between the humble beginning and the present elevation has been rugged and thorny, but that he has successfully traversed it is proof positive that he is a man of real mettle and might have commanded success in any line of effort to which he was adapted no matter what the circumstances might have been.

Mr. Randall is no importation into this region, but is wholly its own product. He was born in Convis township on March 20, 1872, a son of Theodore and Maria (Deitrich) Randall, the former a native of Clarkson, Monroe county, New York, born on September 30, 1829, and the latter of Marengo, Michigan, where her life began on October 1, 1836. The father came to Michigan and Calhoun county at an early day and settled on a farm in Convis township which he farmed during the remaining years of his life. In earlier life in his native state

Hosted by Google

he was a school teacher, and he followed this pursuit a short time after his arrival in this state. But nearly all of his time here was devoted to farming with enterprise and success. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The mother died in 1903 and the father in 1904, she passing away on the home farm in Convis township while he passed away in Bellevue, Eaton county.

They were the parents of four children, Edwin being their last born. Fannie, the wife of James Grinnell, lives at Bellevue. Augustus died a number of years ago. Fred E. lives in Convis township. The father was a Republican in his political faith and firmly adhered to the principles of his party in all campaigns. He was recognized as a man of force and ability and filled nearly all of the offices in the gift of the township in which he lived. His first purchase of a farm in this county was a tract of forty acres of land, which he afterward traded for a farm of 115 acres. Late in life, when he retired from active work and after his wife passed away he moved to Bellevue, in the adjoining county of Eaton, where, as has been stated, his long and useful life ended.

The paternal grandfather, Theophilus Randall, was born in Ashburnham, Worcester county, Massachusetts, on September 10, 1791. After reaching maturity he moved to the state of New York where he passed the rest of his life, actively and successfully engaged in the practice of his profession as a physician and surgeon, in which he attained considerable local celebrity. The grandfather on the mother's side was George Deitrich, a Pennsylvanian by nativity, born on February 16, 1796, at Stroudsburg, Monroe county, in the great Keystone state, and his wife, whose maiden name was Mary Best, was born on June 25, 1800, at Moorestown, Northampton county, in the same state. Both died in Convis township, this county, the former on September 11, 1858, and the latter on May 22, 1879. They had thirteen children, of whom their daughter Marie Anna, the mother of Mrs. Randall, was the tenth in the order of birth.

Edwin A. Randall, like most other country boys in our history, obtained his education in the public schools. He began life for himself on a farm, working for his father until he attained his majority. He bought the farm he now owns and cultivates in 1899. It comprises 160 acres, nearly all of which are under cultivation and highly productive. The tillage is progressive and skillful, and as the land is fertile and responsive, the returns are good. On this land Mr. Randall carries on general farming operations, and also raises and feeds live stock extensively for the markets.

On November, 14th, 1893, Mr. Randall was united in marriage with Miss Rose Cooley, a daughter of Levi and Jane (Van Nocker) Cooley, the former born in Genesee county, New York, in 1826, and the latter in Newton township, this county, in 1836. The father died in 1881 and the mother in 1900. They were farmers and the mother was a faithful member of the Baptist church. Nine children were born of their union, six of whom are living, all but one of them residents of Calhoun county. They are: Lyman, Charles, Elmer, Vera (the wife of Alonzo Kellogg), Julia (the wife of William Walkinshaw), and Mrs. Randall. Elmer lives in Eaton county.

Mr. and Mrs. Randall have five children, all of whom are still living at home with their parents. They are: Leah, Edna, Maynard, Leslie and Robert. The parents are members of the Baptist church and the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, and the father is a firm adherent of the Democratic party in political relations. He is loyal to his party in all its contests, and does good work for its candidates in

Hosted by Google

the campaigns, although he has never held or desired a political office himself. His activity in this respect springs from his devotion to the welfare of his locality and his desire to promote that in every way. He believes that the public weal will be best secured by the supremacy of the principles of the party to which he adheres. But he is an excellent citizen rather than an active partisan, and the people throughout the county hold him in high regard as such.

ELI WILSON FLAGG. The eminence of Battle Creek among the industrial centers of the middle west has been due to the presence here of a group of men possessed of remarkable genius as manufacturers and of fine capabilities as organizers and business builders. Capital has been less conspicuous in the net results than personal ability, and it is with pride that the city regards its list of inventors and industrial executives.

A high place of honor in this record belongs to Eli Wilson Flagg, whose genius at mechanical contrivance and invention has contributed some of the most important elements to the splendid manufacturing enterprise of the Nichols & Shepard Company, with which he has been identified for forty years. Mr. Flagg has been a resident of Battle Creek for nearly sixty-five years, is one of the oldest living citizens, and has had a notable career.

He was born in the village of Massena, St. Lawrence county, New York, November 2, 1838. He was the second in a family of eight children born to Barzillai and Sarah (Wilson) Flagg. Seven of the children grew up and five are living, Mr. Flagg being the oldest, and the other four are: William H., Mrs Clara Morgan, of Nashville, Michigan; Elijah, a machinist with the Rumely Company of this city; and Mrs. David M. Sherman, of this city. The two children now deceased were Mrs. Elizabeth Detro and Clark Flagg, both of whom died in Battle Creek. Clark Flagg served as a private for about three years in the First Michigan Sharpshooters. The father of this family was by trade a carpenter and millwright, and followed that occupation after coming to Battle Creek until his death, which occurred April 16, 1852. He was a native of Massachusetts, while his wife was born in Canada, and they were married at Massena, New York. The mother passed away in Battle Creek in February, 1884.

Eli Wilson Flagg was ten years old when, in 1848, the family came to Battle Creek, and about three years later his father's death occurred. He had attended the local schools and gained the rudiments of an education, but as the oldest son of the large family, and his mother being in limited circumstances, he had to turn his efforts to practical use in supporting the home. For a time he worked as a farm hand, and during this experience he helped in making hay on the site now covered by the Nichols & Shepard plant. At the age of fifteen he entered the employ of the woolen mills, and during the summer seasons continued in this way for six years, at wages of from twelve to sixteen dollars a month. During the winters he accepted any work that he could find.

In the year 1859 he first became connected with the Nichols & Shepard factory, having entered as an apprentice to learn the machinists' trade. His first wages were seventy-five cents a day, which were increased in 1862 to two dollars a day. He had the distinction of helping in the construction of the first thresher ever built by the Nichols & Shepard Company. He left that firm in 1864 and began work for Brown & Upton, the manufacturers of threshing machinery, and continued with them until a few months before their plant was removed to Port Huron in 1882. He then had charge of the machinery department of

Hosted by Google

the Advance Thresher Company (now the Rumely works) until 1886, and since that date has been continuously identified with the mechanical department of the great Nichols & Shepard Company. He is now superintendent of the separator department, and has given invaluable and original service to this company.

While Mr. Flagg is a practical mechanic and for many years has supervised the work of large forces of men, his most distinctive achievements have been in the field of invention. In 1886 he perfected and patented an improvement on the old form of vibrator, which he called the New Flagg Vibrator. He sold the device to Nichols & Shepard, and it was manufactured and used on all their machines from 1888 to 1901. This was only the first of many important inventions and improvements due to the genius of Mr. Flagg. In 1891 he patented a separating grate and check plate which separates the straw from the grain at the cylinder, and this improvement was first made and installed by the company in 1900. It is now familiarly known as the Red River Special. The first machine thus equipped was sent out to Iowa, and did such good work that it at once became a leading feature of the Nichols & Shepard machinery, and has been regularly manufactured ever since. In 1902 the device was improved and the patent reissued, and a third patent covered a still later improvement in 1903. These are the chief among the original accomplishments of this quiet inventor in the field of applied mechanics.

Mr. Flagg was married on November 12, 1863, to Miss Elizabeth M. Jewell, daughter of John M. and Naomi (Cooper) Jewell. Mrs. Flagg died on January 19, 1899, leaving two children, Ora May and John Jewell Flagg. Ora May, who graduated from the Battle Creek schools, is now the wife of Fred Wells, who was in the same class at school. John Jewell Flagg died in October, 1899, when a young man of twenty-four and just entering upon a career of usefulness. He received his education in the high school and business college at Battle Creek. At Mr. Flagg's second marriage, on February 6, 1900, Mrs. Marian (Dwinell) Edmonds became his wife. Mrs. Flagg is a native of Battle Creek and a member of one of the oldest and most prominent pioneer families. Her parents were Henry L. and Calista (Warren) Dwinell. Her father was born in Bennington, Vermont, and settled at Battle Creek in 1831. His wife was born in Holly, New York, came to Battle Creek with her parents, and was married here at the age of seventeen. Mr. Dwinell was for a number of years engaged in farming near Wheatfield, but later moved to Eaton county, where his daughter Mrs. Flagg was reared, and she attended school at Olivet.

While his business career has had sufficiency of solid accomplishment to be matter of pride and honor, Mr. Flagg has also been effectively identified with the public affairs of his community. His first presidential vote was cast in the campaign where Stephen A. Douglas was the candidate of the northern Democrats. He was an earnest follower of Democratic principles until 1896, since which time he has been with the Republican party. He has given six years of service in the office of alderman, having been elected in 1882 from the first ward and serving three successive terms. Hon. Edwin C. Nichols was mayor of the city during that period. From 1862 to 1882 he had been an active member of the old volunteer fire department, and when he became a member of the city council he took much interest in improving the efficiency of the department. During his second term he was chairman of the fire department committee, and also served on the water works committee. In 1903 he was made a member of the police commission, and was police commissioner under Mayor Fred Webb one year, under

Hosted by Google

Mayor Frank Clapp one year, and under Mayor George Barnes two years.

Until recently Mr. Flagg took an active part in fraternal matters. He joined Battle Creek Lodge No. 29 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in 1867, and besides filling all the chairs of the lodge he was representative to the grand lodge at Saginaw in 1876, at which time he was made deputy grand master. In 1878 he became a charter member of Security Lodge No. 49 of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and filled all the offices and was a member of the grand lodge in Detroit. He has since dropped his membership in both these orders. Now in the seventy-fourth year of his life, Mr. Flagg has spent an unusually long and serviceable career. He has made definite and valuable contributions to the great field of mechanical industry which has revolutionized the material civilization of the last century. As a citizen he has been a worthy and public-spirited factor, and among family, friends and associates enjoys the esteem paid to a singularly upright and honorable character.

ARTHUR E. CARUS. Like many millions of other boys in this country who make up the bone and sinew of our population and on whom its present safety and future prospects for advancement rest, to say nothing of all its past of glorious history, Arthur E. Carus of Pennfield township, this county, was reared on a farm and obtained his education in the district schools. And like hosts of others, while in the formative period of his history he tried his hand at other occupations before settling down to his life work on the farm. To carry the comparison farther, he at last found his place in the industrial life of the land, and in that he has made a complete and gratifying success.

Mr. Carus is a native of Michigan, born in Portland, Northampton county, on September 4, 1882, and a son of Jerome W. and Mary (Bullard) Carus, the former a native of the state of New York, where his life began in 1838, and the latter of the same state, where she came into being ten years later. The father came to Pennfield township, Calhoun county, Michigan, in 1882, and after his arrival in this part of the country served as principal of schools at Bellevue one year. He was well qualified for the office, as he had taught school for a number of years in his native state.

But the rich and fruitful land of Michigan awakened his desire for a different occupation and he became a farmer, purchasing what he transformed into a fine farm in Pennfield township, on which he remained until his death in 1894. He was very successful, and at the time of his death owned 100 acres of first-rate land, improved with good buildings and in an advanced state of productiveness, and ranking high in value. He was well and favorably known all over the county, and by his worth as a man, his progressiveness as a citizen and his general usefulness in regard to public improvements and the enduring welfare of his locality, he won the lasting esteem of all classes of its residents.

He and his wife were the parents of six children, four of whom are yet living, Arthur E. being the last born of the family. The children living in addition to him are: Charles, who is a resident of California; Jennie, who married William Boyd and is now a resident of Cleveland, Ohio; and Glenn, who lives in Battle Creek. The father was an independent Republican in politics, but he filled, from time to time, nearly every township office. He studied law with a view to practicing the profession, but gave up his design in this direction and devoted himself to farming instead. He and his wife belonged to the Baptist church,

Hosted by Google

of which the mother, who is still living, and has her home in Battle Creek, is yet a devout and consistent member, faithful to all her church duties and taking a great interest in the affairs of the congregation to which she belongs.

He was a son of Weaver Carus, who passed the whole of his life in the state of New York. The maternal grandfather was Edward Bullard, also a New Yorker by nativity, who never lived in any other than his native state. Both were men of prominence and influence in the places of their residence and helped to give trend and direction to the public affairs where they lived and left their impress on the local institutions which grew up and flourished in those places.

Arthur E. Carus, after leaving the district school in which he laid the foundation of his education, attended, for a short time, a school of more advanced grade in Battle Creek. He worked for a time on his father's farm after leaving school, then for two years in Toledo, Ohio, and one in Battle Creek, at bakery work. He also passed one year in Fargo, North Dakota, but since then all his time has been spent on the farm in useful and profitable labor, fruitful for himself and beneficial to the community.

In 1896 he bought a farm of forty acres, which he still owns, and he has since purchased an additional tract of forty acres more. His land is nearly all tillable and under cultivation, and every acre is made to yield good returns for the labor and skill bestowed upon it. The dwelling house on the land needed enlargement and Mr. Carus made an important addition to it. The farm needed many improvements, and he has made them. In every way he has shown his public spirit and progressiveness, and by so doing has augmented and strengthened the large hold he has on the confidence and esteem of the people among whom he lives and labors.

On March 6, 1906, he was united in marriage with Miss Myrtle Van Nocker, a daughter of Andrew Van Nocker, Jr., whose history is given at some length in a sketch of George Whitbeck to be found elsewhere in this volume. One child has been born of the union, a son named Ovid, who is now (1912) five years old. The mother is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and the father takes an active part in the fraternal life of the community as a member of the Modern Samaritans. In political affairs he is independent. In all parts of Calhoun county he is well and favorably known and held in high esteem and good will.

JOHN PAXTON. Struggling forward from his youth in gloom and through difficulties toward success in life and determined to win it; confronting all the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" with a resolute heart and an unyielding spirit; making steady progress by industry, frugality and good management, and now established in worldly comfort and public esteem, John Paxton, one of the enterprising and progressive farmers of Convis township, is a product of native firmness of purpose, self-knowledge and self-reliance, and diligence and good judgment in the use of these qualities and the opportunities they brought him.

Mr. Paxton's life began in Marshall township, Calhoun county, on March 27, 1845. His parents, William and Susan (Neilson) Paxton, were natives of Scotland, whence the father came to this country about the year 1833. He was born on May 14, 1810, and the mother on May 9, 1818. They were married in the United States on July 4, 1836, and became the parents of nine children, of whom four of the sons are living, John being the fifth child born in the family, and he and all the others

Hosted by Google

being born in the same house, which is still standing in Marshall, this county.

Of the deceased children, one was Robert H., who was killed in the battle of Murfreesborough during the Civil war. James, who was born in 1842, now lives in California. Charles, whose life began on October 27, 1851, is a resident of Nebraska, and William Neilson, whose time of birth was July 27, 1854, has his home in the state of Washington.

The father came to Marshall in 1836, the year of his marriage, to build the Marshall House. He was a good carpenter and builder, and found all the work he could do in this part of the country during the remainder of his life. And he made all his efforts tell to his advantage, accumulating a comfortable estate and rising to a position of general esteem among the people. His political affiliation was with the Republican party, and he and the mother were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He died in February 28, 1875, and she on May 1, 1897.

The paternal grandparents passed the whole of their lives in Scotland, as did generations of their ancestors, the families being domesticated in that country for a very long period. The grandfather on the mother's side, ———— Neilson, however, came to the United States and passed the greater part of his remaining years in this state, dying in Pontiac, Oakland county. All were sturdy people in their activity and stability and sterling in their character and fidelity to duty.

John Paxton obtained a common school education in Marshall and began life for himself as a farmer soon after leaving school. He struggled along with slow progress at first, saving his earnings and looking forward to the time when he could own a farm of his own. This did not come until 1892, when he bought a tract of eighty acres of land, for which he put himself in debt $500. He is now out of debt and has his farm well improved and highly cultivated, and he owns other property in addition. On this farm he erected the dwelling house and out buildings, and made all the other improvements, and he has transformed a wholly unimproved tract of land into a fine country home devoted to general farming.

Mr. Paxton has been married four times. His first matrimonial union was in 1882, and with Mrs. Matilda Labteaux, a daughter of Edward Shumway Labteaux, one of the early settlers in Eaton county and an educator of note. She died in 1884, and in 1892 occurred his second marriage, which united him with Miss Louise L. Phine. Her demise took place in 1897. One year later he married Mrs. Eliza Arnold as his third wife, who abode with him until 1910, then she too passed away. His latest venture in the field of wedlock united him with Mrs. Ella Commings on April 10, 1911. She is a Christian Scientist, and one of the devout and ardent champions of the sect and its claims and teachings according to its most advanced beliefs.

Mr. Paxton's political faith and allegiance are given zealously to the Republican party, and he is always true to its principles and candidates. He is practically a self-made man in the most acceptable sense of the expression, and knowing his own struggles he is sympathetic with those of other men in the same straits. He has also learned from his own experience the value of industry, foresight and the exercise of judgment, and he applies these forces to all matters of public improvement and all undertakings for the promotion of the good of his locality and the welfare of its residents. They, one and all, look upon him as an upright and capable man of genuine worth and a citizen of great usefulness, and give him their cordial respect in accordance with this estimate.

WILLIAM R. HOFFMAN. From the beginning of the postal service the representative men of each community have been chosen to fill the im-

Hosted by Google

portant office of postmaster, it being necessary for them to be men of strict honesty, reliability and solidity, as so much responsibility rests in their hands. William R. Hoffman, postmaster at Eckford, Michigan, is one of the most popular officials in the state, and is discharging his duties in a way that awakens admiration and commendation on every side. Mr. Hoffman was born in Eckford township, Calhoun county, November 7, 1877, and is a son of George and Clara (Rapsher) Hoffman, natives of New York, where the father was born in 1851 and the mother two years later. They were married in Eckford township in 1874, and had a family of six children, all of whom are still living: Walter, of Clarendon township; William R.; Solon, of Clarendon; Olive, who married R. E. Pemberton, of Spokane, Washington; and George and Roy, residents of Clarendon. George Hoffman was brought as a lad to Eckford township by his parents, Henry and Mary Hoffman, who were born and married in Germany, and who spent their last years in agricultural pursuits in Eckford township, Mr. Hoffman owning a farm of eighty acres. His death occurred in 1900 and that of his wife several years earlier. In young manhood, George Hoffman chose carpentering as his life work, and this he had continued to follow throughout his career until 1906, at which time he devoted himself to farming in Clarendon township, where he now owns a valuable tract of 200 acres. Mrs. Hoffman passed away in 1911, in the faith of the Baptist church, of which she was a devoted member. Her husband is a Democrat in political matters, and while a resident of Eckford township served one term as treasurer.

The early education of William R. Hoffman was secured in the public schools of Eckford, and his first employment was in a grocery store in that city, where he acted as a clerk. He subsequently held a like position in a store in Albion for two years, and spent four years in the establishment of Mr. McConnell, in Homer, in which city he embarked in business for himself as a grocer and remained two years, meeting with a fair measure of success. In 1909 Mr. Hoffman came to Eckford and opened a general store and through industry and progressive methods has succeeded in building up an excellent business. He carries a full line of up-to-date goods, shows good judgment in their display, and through fair dealing and a desire to be courteous to his customers, has won a wide-spread popularity. In February, 1909, he was appointed postmaster of Eckford, a fourth-class office, and still acts in that capacity.

On January 15, 1903, Mr. Hoffman was married to Miss Mary Hanna, daughter of Frank and Mary Hanna, residents of Homer, the former a retired railroad man. Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman have one daughter, Rena, a student in the Eckford schools.

DEL A. SHAFFER. After considerable experience as to vocations and locations Del A. Shaffer chose farming as his permanent line of endeavor and Calhoun county as the place, and both he and the county have profited by his decision. Like a remarkable number of his fellow citizens he claims New York as the state of his nativity. Born April 4, 1844 in Orleans, then Niagara, county of the Old Empire state, he there grew to manhood and acquired his education in the district schools of his locality and in Yates Academy, Yates, New York. After coming to Michigan he also took a business course at Mayhew's Business College, Albion, Michigan. The second year after leaving New York he spent as a teller in a bank at Janesville, Wisconsin, returning after that to Michigan, where for nine years he taught school during the winters and worked on his father's farm during the summers. At

Hosted by Google

the age of twenty-seven he took up telegraphy and was stationed at Michigan Center, Mich., but as he did not like the work he continued but two years and then returned to the farm. About this time, or at the age of twenty-nine, he was united in marriage to Sarah Robertson, whose parents, Theodore and Christina (Houtz) Robertson, had come to Michigan in the '50s and had located first in Branch county but about 1860 had removed to Calhoun county, where both passed to rest. Mr. and Mrs. Shaffer began life together on a rented farm and continued thus until 1880 when Mr. Shaffer purchased 320 acres in Kansas, on which they resided four years. Not liking their location, however, they then returned to Michigan but continued to hold their Kansas property for ten years afterward. After working the farm on which he now resides for five years he bought it of his father-in-law and has since made it his home. Besides this property he also owns 160 acres in Sheridan and Eckford townships. In politics he is independent, reserving to himself the right to judge of men and issues and to cast his ballot in accord with his convictions. While he has no political aspirations, he has been chosen for office nevertheless and has served as a justice of the peace and is now a member of the Calhoun county board of reviews.

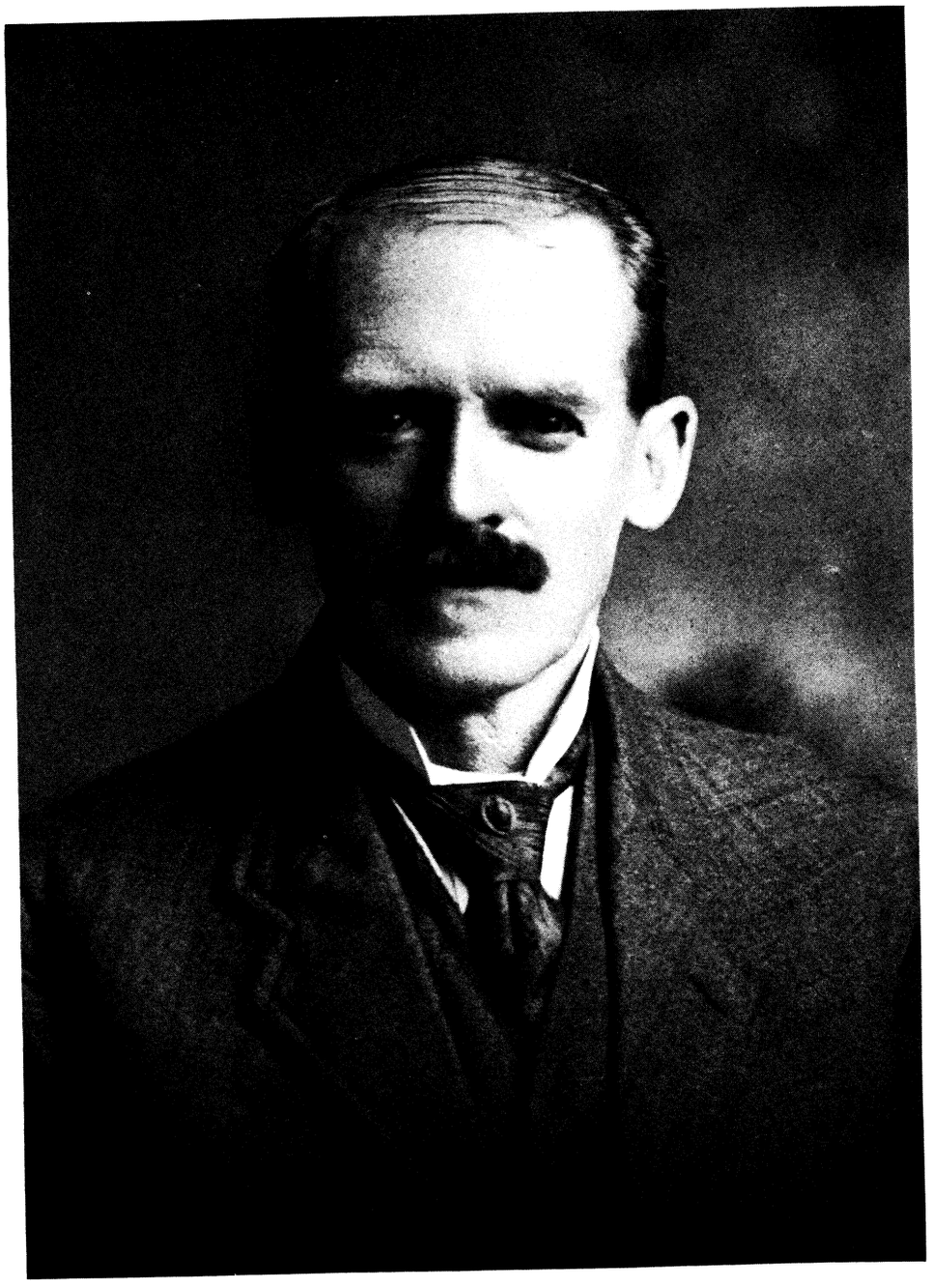
Mr. Shaffer is a son of John Shaffer, born in New York, who died in 1892. His mother's maiden name was Susan M. Kenyon and she also was a native of New York, born in Kenyonville, Orleans county, which town was founded by one of her ancestors. The parents were married in New York and resided there until 1863, when they removed to Parma township, Jackson county, Michigan, where they had 120 acres of land and where they remained five years. This was not their first experience in Michigan, however, for they had come to Oakland county of this state in 1841 but remained only one year before returning to New York. They suffered considerably from ague on this first sojourn. From Jackson county they removed to Albion township, Calhoun county, where the father purchased 162 acres, which he held five years and then exchanged for a farm of eighty acres adjoining the one on which our subject now resides. Later he removed to Eckford township and from thence to Branch county, Michigan, where he died. He was quite successful in a financial way and became a man of competence. To John and Susan M. (Kenyon) Shaffer were born eleven children, of whom Del A. was second in order of birth and is one of six now living (1912). John Shaffer was first a Whig and later a Republican in politics and while he took a keen interest in his party's affairs he never entered actively into party work or sought official preferment. Quiet in disposition and unassuming in manner, he found his greatest pleasure in his home circle and in his business operations. In each of his locations he became well known and respected as an honest and upright man. Both he and his wife were communicants of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. and Mrs. Del A. Shaffer have three children living, their eldest, son, George E., having died in his sixth year. Their eldest daughter, Susie E., is the wife of Frederick E. Clark, of Eckford township; Lillie married Emil Oderkirk, a teacher in a business college at Aberdeen, South Dakota; and Clara Belle, the youngest daughter, is at home with her parents.

I. N. Moore. One of the men who by originative and inventive genius and by business ability have laid the permanent foundation of Battle Creek's important manufacturing and industrial enterprise is Mr. I. N. Moore, the vice president of the Union Steam Pump Company and prominent in other lines of business in the city.

Mr. Moore, who has spent most of his life in this county, was born

Hosted by Google



A. H. Moore

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

in Chester county, Pennsylvania, twenty-eight miles from Philadelphia, December 23, 1850. The family have been well known residents of this county for about half a century. His parents were George W. and Lavinia P. (Newbre) Moore. His father died on the old homestead in Emmett township, Calhoun county. The mother, who was a daughter of Ila and Irine (Gibson) Newbre, pioneers of this part of Michigan, still lives on the old home farm in Emmett township and is now eighty-three years of age. The Newbre family came west from Genesee county, New York, and made the journey from Detroit to Sandstone in Jackson county by stage, and their first crop of wheat was hauled in wagon clear to Detroit market. George W. Moore, the father, was a carpenter by trade, which he followed during his residence in Pennsylvania, but was always a farmer in this county. Of the six children, all but the subject of this article were born in Emmett township, and all are still living:—J. W. lives on the home farm in Emmett township; Gainer P. is a resident of North Dakota; Mrs. Nellie Woodward has her home in Battle Creek; Charles Elmer lives at Darington, Washington, and Owen in New Mexico.

When I. N. Moore was sixteen years old he got his first introduction to the responsible duties of life by farming the old home place in Emmett township for one season, during which time his father was assisting an uncle in the building of a barn. His early education was obtained in the Spaulding neighborhood of Emmett township, and he early manifested a strong taste and genius for things mechanical. An uncle who lived in Ohio had a machine shop, and there during one year he got the rudiments of the trade. Returning home he finished his apprenticeship with Merritt & Kellogg, in the old Nichols & Shepard shops. Merritt & Kellogg built a traction engine before the large corporation took up the manufacture of that class of machinery.

On finishing his apprentice term, he spent a year at Saginaw with the Wicks Brothers, manufacturers of sawmill machinery. He then became identified with Mr. Burnham of Battle Creek in the factory which has since become the American Steam Pump Company. While there an Adventist named Tripp was having a knitting machine made in the shop, and Mr. Moore was assigned to the work. It was a machine too complicated for its small capacity, as he soon saw, and he soon designed a machine of his own which was a great improvement. This invention was the beginning of his independent career, and in association with James Gridley and Eugene Steward he founded the Waupakisco Knitting Company, which had a very successful career for some years. The late William Andrus was president of the company and Warren Noble its secretary and treasurer. They made a specialty of striped mittens, an imitation of hand knit, with two colors of thread. Alonzo Noble, father of Warren, built a factory for them on South Jefferson avenue, and the site is now occupied by part of the plant of the Union Steam Pump Company. After about four years what were known as the "full mittens" came in and made the further manufacture of the striped mittens unprofitable.

During the next three years Mr. Moore had charge of the knitting machinery for the Pembroke Knitting Company, on Champion street, and then engaged with the old Battle Creek Machine Company, now the American Steam Pump Company. While working there he invented the Moore Steam Pump, which is now one of the principle outputs of the Union Steam Pump Company and is used extensively on traction and threshing engines. After he had perfected his design of this pump, he induced Emery Upton to build a few of them in the little job machine shop that he then had here. Having demonstrated the success of the

Hosted by Google

pump, he turned the patent over to the Union Manufacturing Company (now the Union Steam Pump Company), and in exchange took stock and has since been identified with this successful manufacturing concern. This company manufactures both the Burnham and Moore Steam pumps, air compressors, condensers and power pumps. The present officers of the company are:—C. E. Kolb, president; I. N. Moore, vice president; C. W. Brainard, secretary and treasurer; and John Heyser, general superintendent.

Mr. Moore has also taken out a patent on a steam valve used on the Burnham pumps, and now manufactured by this company, these valves being of larger size than those used on the Moore pump. When Mr. Frost perfected the pump which the Union Manufacturing Company undertook to make, the company was enjoined from using the Frost valve by parties who claimed an infringement on the Marsh steam valve. Within twenty-four hours after the decision, Mr. Moore had perfected a valve which was superior to the other in every way, and which received the name of the Union steam valve. In all, Mr. Moore has taken about ten different patents, in connection with knitting machinery valves and other improvements.

Mr. Moore was one of the organizers and founders of the Advance Pump & Compressor Company of this city, and is now vice president of the company. His valve is also used in the Duplex pump made by this company. He is also a stockholder in the Old National Bank. He is Republican in politics, belongs to the Athelstan Club, the leading business and social organization of the city, and is president of the board of trustees of the Maple Street M. E. church.

The residence of the Moore family is at 28 Garrison avenue. Mr. Moore's first wife was Miss Amelia Root. Her father, Alonzo Root, of Newton township, was one of the early settlers in this county and helped in the construction of the Michigan Central Railroad between here and Detroit. Her death occurred in Battle Creek, and her three children, who were born and educated in Battle Creek, are Mrs. C. H. Murry, of Hammond, Indiana, and Earnest and George, of Los Angeles, California.

In Battle Creek Mr. Moore married second Miss Clara Johnson. Mrs. Moore is a native of Pennsylvania, but was reared and educated near Hastings, Barry county, this state. They are the parents of five children, namely: Hazel, who is now Mrs. Henry Edwards, of Los Angeles; Avis, Rhue, Raymond and Irma, all at home. They were all born in this city and attended the local schools.

RAY H. COOK. Calhoun county is fortunate in that it numbers among its most progressive and energetic men those who are yet in the very prime of vigorous manhood, for from them much can be expected. Those of the younger generation, profiting by the experience of those who have gone before them, and thus being able to avoid the mistakes which have frequently been made, are constantly adding to the county's prestige in the various vocations, but this is probably more apparent in agricultural work, in which such great advances have been made during the last few years. Prominent among the farmers of Eckford township stands Ray H. Cook, who in addition to cultivating his own tract of land is managing the large farm of his mother, and who is recognized as one of the most able and progressive young agriculturists of this section. Mr. Cook was born April 7, 1889, at Petersburg, Michigan, and is the adopted son of Theodore Cook. The latter was born March 8, 1839, on the property on which Ray H. Cook is now carrying on operations, a son of Henry Cook, one of the earliest settlers of Calhoun county. Theodore Cook was educated in the district schools of Calhoun county, and at the age of twenty

Hosted by Google

years began to follow the vocation of farming, carrying on general farming, but giving special attention to the raising of wheat and to wool growing. He died March 12, 1896, in the faith of the Baptist church, of which he had been a life-long member. In political matters he was a Republican, and at one time served Eckford township as treasurer. In 1873 he was married to Miss Julia Hafer, of St. Joseph county, Michigan.

Ray H. Cook was adopted into the home of Theodore Cook when he was five days old, and was given excellent educational advantages, attending the district schools, the high school at Homer, Michigan, and a business college at Battle Creek, Michigan. On completing his course at the latter institution, he returned to the farm, and in 1908 took charge of the operations thereon, superintending them until the estate was settled in 1910. At the present time he owns eighty acres of his own, and also manages the farm of his mother, a tract of 187 acres which is one of the finest properties of its size in the county. In addition to carrying on general farming, Mr. Cook specializes in stock raising, buying and fattening from one to two carloads of cattle and sheep for the market yearly and giving special attention to Chester White hogs. At this time he contemplates entering the business of poultry raising. He is the most progressive of farmers and an excellent business man, holds the full confidence of the community, and may take a pardonable pride in what he has accomplished in so short a space of time.

In 1909 Mr. Cook was married to Iva A. Shultz, daughter of Jasper and Roby (Thompkins) Shultz, for many years prominent farming people of Eckford township, and now residents of Battle Creek. Two children have been born to this union: Theodore Warren and Clinton Clifford. In his political views Mr. Cook is a Democrat, while his fraternal connection is the Knights of Pythias, the Knights of the Maccabees and the Modern Woodmen of America, all of Homer.

William Kidney has spent the most of his life in Fredonia and other nearby townships, although he was born in London, Ontario, Canada, on September 15, 1843. He is the son of James and Jane (Sutton) Kidney. The father was born in Conquest, New York, in 1813, January 8th being his natal day, and the mother in Chatters, England, in 1819. She came to America with her parents when she was but fourteen years of age, and with them settled in New York, later removing to Pennsylvania. In the year 1832 Mr. Kidney came to Michigan for the first time. He was unaccompanied by friends or family, and after looking about for a time, settled in Eckford township, and for several years he worked about the mill at Marshall, and it was not until 1854 that he bought the fine farm which later represented his home and which is now the property of William Kidney of this review. In 1840 James Kidney married Jane Sutton, and to them five children were born, William being the second born. After his marriage he moved to Canada and located in London, Ontario, where he became interested in the window blind business and was thus engaged for a number of years. He was in earlier life allied with the Democratic party, but later embraced Republican principles and was active in behalf of the party until he died in 1884. His religious belief was that of the Friends. The wife and mother died in 1872.

William Kidney as a boy at home attended the district schools of Fredonia and of Marshall until he was about eighteen years old, helping with the regular farm work between seasons. At that age he enlisted in the Union army, as a member of Company M of the second Michigan Cavalry, serving about four years. He saw much active service in that time and gave gallant aid to the cause of the Union. He was at Gettys-

Hosted by Google

burg, Pittsburg Landing, Corinth and Murphysboro. He was with General Sherman for the most part, then with General Thomas, and was twice wounded in action. After the war he went to Nevada, the spirit of adventure not yet wholly subdued, and there he followed mining,—an occupation in which he was especially fortunate. In 1868 he returned to Michigan and located on a farm adjoining the old homestead. He later bought thirty-five acres, and still later bought his father's farm of one hundred and fifteen acres.

In 1870 Mr. Kidney married Miss Eliza M. Fox, the daughter of Daniel M. Fox of Fredonia, a prominent farmer and early settler of this section of the country, who located here in about 1855. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kidney,—Alma, now Mrs. Charles Katz, and Annie E., the wife of Clarence E. Miller of Eckford township.

Mr. Kidney is recognized for one of the leading citizens of his township, in which he has always taken a prominent part with relation to the administration of municipal affairs. He has held various offices, calculated to evidence the confidence which his fellow townsmen place in him, and has been township treasurer for one year, as well as justice of the peace. He is prominent fraternally, holding membership in St. Alban's Lodge No. 20 at Marshall in the Masonic Order, and being a member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Marshall.

WILLIAM C. KATZ, SR., a prominent cement contractor of Marshall, Michigan, and a leader in that business in the county, has been identified with the cement business in an active way since 1902. He has learned the business from beginning to end, and is known for one of the competent and capable cement contractors of the county.

Mr. Katz was born in Fredonia township, Calhoun county, in November 21, 1864, and has passed his life thus far within the confines of his native state. He is the son of William and Caroline (Marshall) Katz. The father died in 1866. The mother, born in Germany, died April 3, 1911.

Their son, William C., Sr., acquired his education in the public schools of Marshall. After finishing with his high school course he learned the trade of a cooper and followed the business for several years. In 1902 he first became connected with the cement business, and after learning well the art of successfully mixing and blending the materials, he engaged in cement contracting, in which business he has continued since that time, doing a thriving business in season. He now employs a large force of men, and commands a good share of the cement business which is annually let in Marshall. He is a heavy purchaser of the materials used in his work and purchased his supplies by the car load, thus securing bottom prices. He procures his cement from Lansing and Chicago, as well as such other materials as he has use for in the business. In addition to the building of walks, curbs, foundations, etc., he also manufactures cement blocks for use in building, and his work may be found on every street in Marshall, where he has a reputation not alone for performing well-appearing work, but work of the greatest permanency and durability.

On December 23, 1886, Mr. Katz married Miss Anna D. Wackenhut, a native daughter of Michigan, her parents being pioneer settlers of the state. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Katz: John F., William C., Jr., who is associated with his father in the cement business; Ernest C., Irwin F., Arthur G. and Viola May.

Mr. Katz is a member of the Maccabees, also of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows No. 5, and the Knights of Pythias. The family home is

Hosted by Google

maintained at No. 938 South Marshall avenue, and is a large residence, in every way suited to the needs of the household.

OSCAR J. FREDENBURG. For more than forty years located on the same farm and conducting its operations, during half of the period for another man and the remainder for himself; keeping up to date with the science of agriculture and making his enterprise in this respect pay him well; standing high in the councils of his political party, with influence in its management and an undisputed force in local public affairs, whether political or otherwise; and chosen to one official position of importance and responsibility after another, Oscar J. Fredenburg, one of the leading farmers and most esteemed citizens of Pennfield township, Calhoun county, Michigan, presents in his career a fine illustration of the value of thrift, enterprise and sterling manhood in this country, in spite of all the madness of our politics, the diversity of our interests, and our sometimes intense sectional pride.

Mr. Fredenburg was born far from the region of his present home, his life having begun in Columbia county, New York, on November 1, 1849. He is a son of James P. and Paulina (Ashley) Fredenburg, the former born in Vermont on July 4, 1824, and the latter in the state of New York on July 1, 1827. The father was educated in the state of New York, whither he went as a boy. He was a millwright, and after working at his trade in New York a number of years, came to Michigan in 1854, bringing his family with him.

In turning his steps in the direction of the setting sun he looked for larger opportunities for himself and a better future for his family than the old states of the east seemed to offer, and he was not mistaken in his judgment of the situation. On his arrival in this state he found his services as a millwright in great demand to harness the enormous water power of this great, although then undeveloped region for the service of the fast coming hosts of civilization and empire. And as the country around him developed the chances for advancement for the next generation constantly improved and were quickened into larger proportions.

The father worked at his trade for one man twenty-eight years. He bought a farm in this state but never found time to cultivate it, although he lived to the age of seventy-eight, dying in 1902. The mother passed away in 1900. They were the parents of four children of whom Oscar J. was the second born and is the only one living except his sister Jennie, the wife of Charles Fonda, whose home is in California. Julia, the first child, and Libia, the fourth, have died. The father was first a Whig in politics and afterward a Republican, and his religious connection was with the Society of Friends, commonly called Quakers. The mother belonged to the Congregational church, and was a consistent member of it.

The paternal grandparents were Peter and Sarah (Powell) Fredenburg, who passed all of their years as farmers in New York state. The maternal grandfather was Alden Ashley, who was also a New York farmer. After many years of profitable industry he died in his native state on a tract of land granted to his father by the king of England, then and afterward known as Ashley Hill, and conspicuous in the history of its locality in peace and war, while the oboriginal Red Man was still roaming and dwelling around it, and later, when the "Red Men" of Great Britain were fighting to retain their hold on their abused and insulted colonies on this side of the Atlantic.

Oscar J. Fredenburg was but five years old when his parents brought him to Michigan and Calhoun county. He was educated in the schools of Battle Creek in part. He also attended a school in Poughkeepsie, New York. During a portion of his attendance at school he worked in a drug store, and he also worked three years for a water wheel company.

Hosted by Google

On May 24, 1871, Mr. Fredenburg was united in marriage with Miss Olive A. Bordine, a daughter of Samuel W. and Mercy Ann (Van Ness) Bordine, the former born in Orleans county, New York, in 1811, and the latter born in the same state in 1817. They came to Michigan in 1844, and here the father bought a farm of 200 acres in Pennfield township, this county, on which he died on March 24, 1882, and the mother in 1902. They had five children, three of whom are now living, Mrs. Fredenburg having been the last born of the five, and the last one left at home with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Fredenburg have seven children: Mertie A., who is the wife of A. C. Miller; Clara, who married Bert Ellis; Maggie, the wife of Calvin Shanzenbaker; James H.; Samuel W.; Charles A., and Laverne A. The two last named are still at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis own and live on a fine farm in Pennfield township, and all the rest are residents of Battle Creek, where they stand high in public esteem and are prominent in desirable social circles.

Mr. Fredenburg has taken a prominent part in the fraternal life of the community as a member of the Knights of the Maccabees, and in the political affairs of his township and county as a Republican. He has served as treasurer of Pennfield township and on its board of review, and is now its highway commissioner. He is very influential in his party, and has represented his county in many of its county, state and congressional conventions. He is prosperous in his business, doing general farming and handling live stock extensively. The farm he lives on is the one that formerly belonged to his father-in-law. He farmed it for twenty years after his marriage for that gentleman, and at his death came into possession of it. He began his work on it in 1871, and has resided on it continuously ever since. It is well improved and has great value as a farm and attractiveness as a rural home.

GEORGE J. GENEBACH. One of the most prominent and progressive men of Battle Creek is George J. Genebach, correspondent with the Nichols & Shepard Company, his intimate connection with which during the past several years has made him an influential factor in its development and prosperity. Prominent alike in social, public and business affairs, with versatile talents and abilities, he is a citizen at once prominent and useful, filling with credit to himself and with satisfaction to others the multiform duties and obligations imposed upon those whom talent and industry have placed in positions of responsibility and trust. George J. Genebach was born in Brooklyn, Jackson county, Michigan, June 29, 1874, and is a son of Charles F. and Barbara (Stocker) Genebach. His father is identified with real estate interests of Brooklyn, where he and his wife still reside.

The early education of George J. Genebach was secured in the public schools, and subsequently he took a course in Cleary Business College, Ypsilanti, where he was graduated in 1891, this being supplemented by attendance at the State Normal College, where he took a special course. In 1892 he matriculated in the law department of the University of Michigan, and was graduated in June, 1894, having been previously admitted to the bar. He had early formulated plans, and thus his preliminary training had tended toward a business and law education, while it might be noted that he was the youngest member of a class of two hundred and seventy students. While a student in college he took a great interest in athletic sports and was a member of the track team. Immediately after his graduation he established himself in the practice of his profession in Jackson, where his energy and ability soon gained

Hosted by Google

him recognition. On January 1, 1895, he entered into a co-partnership with Elmer Kirkby, who had just retired from the office of prosecuting attorney, although at the expiration of one year the partnership was dissolved. In February, 1898, Mr. Genebach was tendered the position of deputy county clerk, of which he remained the incumbent until July 1, 1900, when he resigned to enter upon his duties as justice of the peace, having been elected to that position during the preceding spring. His personal popularity was clearly indicated in this election, since he received a majority of three hundred and seventy-three votes, while the head of the ticket upon which his name appeared was defeated by more than four hundred votes. Mr. Genebach entered upon the discharge of his official duties on July 4, 1900, and during the administration which followed his rulings were in accord with justice and free from partiality, meeting the approval of superior courts wherever reviewed. On the completion of his service in the office of justice of the peace Mr. Genebach became connected with the International Harvester Company, in their Jackson office, as assistant to the manager, and acted in that capacity from 1904 to October, 1907. On October 7th of the latter year he came to Battle Creek and became connected with Nichols & Shepard Company, as correspondent, a position which he still holds. He is also connected with the United Steel and Wire Company, formerly the Battle Creek Oven Rack Company, which was organized in Battle Creek, in February, 1909, by Mr. Genebach. In April, 1912, this became the United States Steel and Wire Company, of which he is now secretary and manager, and to which he gives a part of his time, and during the year 1912 a new factory was erected in Battle Creek, at the corner of Burchard street and Fonda avenue.

In politics Mr. Genebach is a stanch supporter of the principles of the Republican party. For three years he was a member of the National Guard of Michigan, and while residing in Jackson belonged to the following fraternal organizations: Independent Order of Foresters, which he joined in January, 1897; Elks, which he joined in July, 1898; Maccabees, with which he became connected in February, 1900, and Jackson Lodge, F. & A. M., with which he affiliated in September, 1901. He was also a member of the Jackson City Club, held the office of vice chief ranger of the Foresters, was later elected chief ranger, a position which he held for three years, and in February, 1901, was made high chancellor of the high court of this order for the western jurisdiction of Michigan. At the present time he belongs to Battle Creek Lodge No. 12, F. & A. M., Battle Creek Lodge No. 131, B. P. O. E., and the Country and Athelstan Clubs of Battle Creek. With his family, Mr. Genebach attends the Baptist church, and the comfortable modern family home is situated at No. 7, North Jay street.

Mr. Genebach was married November 18, 1896, in the city of Jackson, Michigan, to Miss Ida B. Stevens, who was born in Titusville, Pennsylvania, daughter of Henry C. Stevens, who was formerly one of the leading oil operators of the Keystone state, and is now a resident of Jackson. Mr. and Mrs. Genebach have had two children: Carleton Grey, who was born September 16, 1897; and Lowell Burke, born October 13, 1898, both of whom are attending the Battle Creek schools.

HENRY CLARENCE HUGGETT. Enterprising, progressive and studious as a farmer, live stock man and manager of an extensive and active dairy business, and universally admired for his energy, ability and intelligence in each of his lines of endeavor; wide awake, alert and zealous in regard to the progress and development of the locality of his home and the welfare of all its residents, and held in high esteem on this account

Hosted by Google

as a citizen; and straightforward and upright in all his daily walk and conduct as a man, Henry Clarence Huggett of Convis township, Calhoun county, holds a high rank among the people of this part of Michigan, and whatever he is, he is wholly a product of this region, and representative of all that is best in its citizenship.

Mr. Huggett was born in Convis township on November 25, 1867, and is a son of Jesse and Fannie (Calendar) Huggett, the former born in England in 1832 and the latter in Calhoun county, Michigan, in 1840. They were married in 1856, and became the parents of six children, five of whom are living, Henry C. being next to the youngest of them. The father came to the United States with his parents, Thomas and Mary Ann (Wickham) Huggett about 1834. The family history is given at some length in a sketch of Jesse's brother, James, elsewhere in this volume.

Jesse Huggett attained his manhood in the state of New York, and then moved to this county and located on the farm of 160 acres in Convis township which he still owns and lives on. He is now eighty years of age, but still leads an active life, not much bent or worn by his burden of years. This year (1912) he planted an acre of his land in potatoes all alone, and has done plenty of other work on his farm. The mother is also still living, and she too is hale and vigorous. In political relations he is a Republican, and has always taken a warm, practical and helpful interest in the public affairs of his township and county. He served as township treasurer at one time, and afterward on the board of review and in several other local offices from time to time in the past, but for many years he has neither had nor desired any part in official life.

Henry C. Huggett's education was obtained in the district schools of Convis township, and after leaving school he began farming in association with his father. At the age of twenty-seven he bought eighty acres of his present farm to start on, and he has since bought eighty more, owning now 160 acres, nearly all under cultivation and highly productive. The rest of the farm is valuable woodland. Mr. Huggett carries on general farming to the limit of his resources in land for the purpose, and he also conducts an extensive and active live stock business, raising large numbers of cattle. In addition to these industries he has a large and profitable dairy trade, especially in cream, which he sells in large quantities in Marshall.

On October 23, 1895, Mr. Huggett was married to Miss May Brown, a daughter of Ezekiel and Mary (Templeton) Brown, long residents of Convis township but both now deceased. The farm on which the Huggett family now lives was the old family home of Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Huggett's mother. Six children have been born in the Huggett household, and all of them are living. They are: Jesse, Marvin, Mary and Gladys, who are attending school, and Victor and Russell, who are as yet too young for school.

In politics Mr. Huggett is a pronounced Republican. He was a member of the school board for six years. When the office of school auditor was in operation he also held that position. In fraternal relations he is connected with the Order of Good Templars. He is well known throughout the county and in all parts of it is highly esteemed. Mrs. Huggett's father was notary public for many years. He came to Michigan in 1852 and died here April 19, 1895.

JAMES E. WALKINSHAW. Born and reared in Convis township, Calhoun county, near the scene of his present well directed and fruitful labors, and having won success and consequence among the people by his

Hosted by Google

fidelity, ability and sterling manhood, James E. Walkinshaw is like the skylark, as described by Wordsworth, having learned

"To soar but never roam,—
True to the kindred points of Heaven and home."

Mr. Walkinshaw's life began on July 15, 1866, and he is a son of David and Sarah (Van Fleet) Walkinshaw, also natives of Calhoun county, the former born in the city of Marshall in 1844 and the latter in Convis township in 1848. The father has been a farmer and also given a great deal of attention to public affairs in the county from the dawn of his manhood. He located on a farm in Convis township in 1876, and remained on it until he was elected sheriff of Calhoun county in 1884. He served four years as sheriff, and also four as supervisor of Convis township. At this time (1912) he is superintendent of the poor in the county and resides in Marshall.

During the Civil war Mr. Walkinshaw, the elder, was a soldier in the Union army, enrolled in Company M, Merrill's Horse Brigade, and since the war he has risen to a position of great influence in the local councils of the Republican party, of which he has always been a member, and for which he has been an active and effective worker for a long time. He is also a great advocate of prohibition and lets his faith on this subject be known at all times and under any circumstances.

He and his wife are the parents of two children, James E. and his sister May. The latter is a teacher in a graded school in Marshall and has her home with her parents in that city. The paternal grandfather also James Walkinshaw, came to this country from Scotland and settled in Michigan and Calhoun county at a very early date in their history. He acquired land from the government, and as this improved and became productive under his skillful husbandry, he bought additions until he became the owner of hundreds of acres, and made the greater part of them productive.

James E. Walkinshaw obtained his education in the district school in the vicinity of his father's farm, augmenting its course of instruction by attending a graded school in Battle Creek one winter. After leaving school he went to work on the family homestead and has followed farming and raising live stock ever since. He and his father now have 440 acres of superior land of his own, which he cultivates with skill and profit, and he is also extensively engaged in raising and feeding stock for the markets. His specialty in the breeding line is thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, but he raises and handles all kinds of live stock, especially feeding large numbers of cows. He is well known in the stock markets, where the output of his stables has a high rank because of the care with which it is reared and fattened and the excellent condition in which it is shipped.

On October 25, 1888, Mr. Walkinshaw was united in marriage with Miss Clara M. Andrus, a daughter of Ira Andrus, who was among the pioneer farmers of Convis township. Three children have been born of the union: Vernice, who has recently completed her education at an institution of advanced learning in Ypsilanti; and Mildred H., who is a graduate of 1912 from the same school, and Harold J., deceased when one month old. These young ladies are now at home with their parents, and they add greatly to the light, life and attractiveness of the family circle and the entertainment of the hosts of friends of the household who visit it.

In fraternal relations Mr. Walkinshaw is a Knight of the Maccabees, a Woodman and a member of the Ancient Order of Gleaners. His political faith is embodied in the principles and theories of government of the Republican party, and he gives his allegiance loyally and without

Hosted by Google

stint to that organization. He has given the people excellent service as a justice of the peace and as treasurer and supervisor of Convis township. In other avenues of effort, outside of political activities, he has also been of service to his township and county by his energy and intelligence in helping to promote progress and improvement, and his earnest and effective support of all undertakings in which the advancement of this part of the state is involved. The residents of his township regard him as one of their most representative and useful citizens, and all agree that he is worthy of the high rank they give him and the general esteem which he enjoys among them. He has a very cordial interest in the region in which his life began, the soil from which he has drawn his stature and his strength, and the people with whom he has mingled from childhood, and this he shows in every political and helpful way open to him.

WILLIAM J. CLARK, one of the representative citizens of Calhoun county, Michigan, identified with the agricultural interests of Fredonia township, dates his birth in the State of New Jersey on the 23rd of January, 1853. He is a son of William and Phoebe Clark, and was sixth in their family of eight children. When he was a mere infant they all came to Michigan and the new home was established in frontier style on a rented farm in Marshall township, Calhoun county. And while he was yet a small boy his mother died. His father subsequently married a Miss Tower. Both his father and mother were natives of New Jersey. The former was born in 1830, and died in 1900.

William J. received his education in the district schools of Marshall township and in the high school at Marshall. At an early age he left the parental home and started out to make his own way in the world, securing employment as a farm hand. And he has since followed farming. He bought a portion of his present farm and moved on to it in 1904. Since then he has increased his holdings to 135 acres. He has erected the most of the buildings on this place and made other improvements, and to-day has one of the best farms in his locality, devoted to general farming and stock raising. With the exception of two years, when he resided in Marshall, Mr. Clark has continued to make his home on his farm.

In 1874 Mr. Clark was married to Miss Martha J. Tadman, daughter of William Tadman of Fredonia township. The fruits of this union are eight children, seven sons and a daughter, of whom record is as follows: Frank W., Edward H., Alonzo W., Fred G., Cyrus, Warren, Ethel B., Donald D. Frank W. married a Miss Thomas and lives in Eckford township, Calhoun county, has two children; Cyrus, who married Miss Lucy Thomas, lives in Marengo township, this county, also has two children; Edward, also of Eckford township, is married and has two children, the youngest deceased; Fred, who married a Miss Bailey and has two children, is a resident of Marshall; Alonzo W., of Jackson, Michigan, married Miss Zella Houston; Warren J. married Miss Pamelia Schnaitman; Ethel, wife of John E. Hoyt, of Fredonia, has two children; Donald, is attending school.

Politically, Mr. Clark is a Democrat, as also was his father; and he has rendered local public service in the capacity of Highway Commissioner, which office he filled two years. By his own efforts and good management he has acquired the fine property he owns, and his standing in the community as a man of sterling worth is unquestioned.

STEPHEN M. HAYES. Having been the architect of his own fortune and built himself up from nothing to a man of substance and worldly

Hosted by Google

comfort, and from the obscurity of country boyhood to good standing, large acquaintance and general esteem in his township and county, Stephen M. Hayes of Fredonia township, this county, has demonstrated the genuineness of his make-up, the quality of his citizenship and the sterling character of his manhood, and has also furnished for the admiration of the people around him a worthy example of elevated and useful American manhood.

Mr. Hayes is a native of Canada, where he was born on January 4, 1857. His parents, now both deceased. were James and Lucy (Landon) Hayes, the former born in Ireland in 1811 and the latter in Canada in 1821. The father came to North America in 1823, when he was but twelve years of age, and, with his parents, took up his residence in Canada, where he grew to manhood and completed his education. He then moved to Sanilac county, Michigan, where he bought a farm which he cultivated for a number of years. In 1887 he became a resident of Calhoun county, and here purchased a farm of 100 acres on which he passed the remainder of his life, dying on this farm on November 11, 1900. He was of a migratory nature and changed the locality of his residence frequently. Besides this he had a large family to provide for, and so in the long run he did not accumulate much property. The mother died in 1897. They were the parents of ten children, only three of whom are now living: William, deceased; Margaret, Abigail, deceased; George, deceased; Mary, deceased; Elizabeth, James, Hiram, who is a resident of Battle Creek, this county; and Stephen M., who was the last born of the family.

In political affairs the father trained with the Democratic party, and, while he never sought or desired a political office of any kind, he was true and loyal to his party, and always rendered it all the service he was able to at the elections. His wife belonged to the United Brethren church, but he was affiliated with the Methodist Episcopalians, and in fraternal relations he was allied with the Order of Orangemen.

Stephen M. Hayes obtained all the education he had opportunity to get in the district schools. He began life for himself on a farm, and he has passed all his subsequent years in farming. In 1901, after farming other men's land on shares for a number of years, he bought eighty acres of his own, and on this he is still living. He has made all the improvements there are on the farm in the way of buildings and fences, and he has also made all the advancement the place has shown in the way of productiveness and attractiveness in appearance. In cultivating his land he does general farming, and he does it with industry, skill and good management, making every acre yield abundantly and the whole operation of the farm profitable.

On the 29th of October, 1889, Mr. Hayes was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Metzger, a native of the state of New York. Two children have been born of the union: Nellie I., who has completed the course of instruction in the district schools and is now living at home with her parents; and Manuel E., has finished a business college in Battle Creek, and is now at Flint, Michigan, with the Buick Auto Co. Mrs. Hayes is a member of the Congregational church, which Mr. Hayes also attends. He is allied with the Knights of the Maccabees in fraternal life, and in politics he is a Democrat. His farm is a fine one, and yields him a comfortable living. By all his neighbors and hosts of other friends he is well esteemed, as he is wherever else he is known.

THEODORE W. SWIFT. Holding prestige as the dominant director of affairs one of the largest grain shipping firms in the state of Michigan, that of McLane, Swift & Company, Theodore W. Swift is recognized as

Hosted by Google

one of the leading business men of Battle Creek, where for years he has been identified with enterprises of an extensive nature. A man of energy and versatile business talents, during his long and successful career he has extended his operations to diversified fields of commercial and industrial endeavor, his energies being confined to undertakings of a strictly legitimate nature, and his transactions being carried on in such a manner as to win the entire confidence and esteem of his business confreres and the public at large. Mr. Swift was born at Birmingham, Lorain county, Ohio, June 10, 1865, and is a son of Elisha E. and Margaret G. (Wells) Swift.

The progenitors of the Swift family in this country emigrated from England during colonial days, and Theodore W. Swift is a nephew of Col. Frederick Swift, ex-postmaster of Detroit and an early settler there. He is descended from the Rev. Elliot Swift, of Pennsylvania, and the brothers of his grandfather were all Presbyterian ministers. Grandfather Swift, however, was a farmer, and at an early day left his native State of Massachusetts and went to Buffalo, New York, from which city he traveled on foot to the state of Ohio. There, in clearing his land, he cut down acres and acres of black walnut trees, and not realizing of what value such timber would be in the years to come, burned it up. Elisha E. Swift was born in Massachusetts, and as a young man went to Indiana, where he was married to Margaret G. Wells. When Theodore W. Swift was four years of age they removed to Grass Lake, Michigan, where Mr. Swift purchased 220 acres, and the rest of his active career was spent in agricultural pursuits. During his latter years he retired from active operations and came to Battle Creek, where his death occurred November 25, 1908, his wife having passed away in this city January 9, 1904, and both were taken back to Grass Lake for burial. They had a family of seven daughters and one son, who are now scattered from New York to California, and Theodore was the fifth in order of birth.

Theodore W. Swift remained on the homestead farm until he was twenty-one years of age, securing his early education in the public schools of Grass Lake, and subsequently attending the Michigan Agricultural College, at Lansing. He then spent two years on the farm, but eventually removed to Union Mills, Indiana, where he became a clerk in the general store of G. L. McLane & Company, and two years later bought an interest therein, as well as the grain business, but bought Mr. Lane's interest some three years later, the business then becoming T. W. Swift & Company. He later disposed of the general store and established an elevator at Union Mills and several others at different points on the Grand Trunk Railroad, and eventually, in 1908, came to Battle Creek and built a large local and transfer elevator, which burned one year later. This was replaced by a similar mill, but it was also destroyed by fire, July 1, 1911, and Mr. Swift now operates through an elevator at Port Huron, Michigan. The firm of McLane, Swift & Company was incorporated in 1908, but Mr. McLane is not now connected with the firm, Mr. Swift being president thereof and principal stockholder. The offices of this firm are located in the Minty Block, and it not only does a large business in grain shipping in the state, but also has an extensive cash grain trade throughout the east and central west. Mr. Swift was one of the organizers of the Hygienic Food Company, and acted as its president until Mr. Butler became its executive, although he still holds stock therein, as well as in the Old National Bank of Battle Creek. In politics he is a Republican, and fraternally he belongs to A. T. Metcalf Lodge, F. & A. M., as well as to the Athelstan and Country Clubs. With Mrs. Swift he attends the

Hosted by Google

Presbyterian church, being one of its liberal supporters. He owns considerable property in Battle Creek, including his handsome modern home at No. 53 Garrison avenue.

On February 28, 1895, Mr. Swift was married to Miss Mary L. Miller, who was born and reared in La Porte county, Indiana, and they have three children: Leland Miller, aged sixteen years, who was born in Indiana; and Gertrude and Josephine, born in Battle Creek, all of whom are pupils in the public schools.

Mr. Swift has traveled throughout this section of the country and the practical knowledge of men and things thus gained, combined with his eminent executive ability, has enabled him to avail himself of every circumstance that has presented itself to him and enlist each into his service for the benefit and advancement of his various business interests. It indeed goes without saying that his high business and social standing is due wholly to his own personal efforts, and he is entitled to the oft much-abused but honorable title of a "self-made man."

WARREN J. CLARK. Standing well as a farmer and held in high esteem as a man and citizen because of his intelligent and helpful interest in public affairs and all matters in which the progress and improvement of his township and county are involved, Warren J. Clark of Marshall township, this county, may well be taken as a representative man of the locality in which he lives. He has made his own way in the world from youth, and all the success he has attained in every way is the result of his own capacity, industry and enterprise. And this is characteristic of the great bulk of the American people, and especially of our most sturdy and sterling citizenship.

Mr. Clark was born in Marshall township, Calhoun county, Michigan, on June 4, 1885. He is a son of William J. and Martha (Tadman) Clark, in a sketch of whom to be found in this volume the family history is given at some length. He obtained his academic education in the district schools and afterward attended a business college in Battle Creek for a special course of training in its lines of instruction. He passed two years of his life after leaving school in Marshall employed on furnace work, but he is now living on a farm which he rents of William Phelps. It comprises 120 acres and shows in all its phases the presence of a master hand in its cultivation. Mr. Clark has farmed it for three years, and under his management it has been made very productive and attractive, his operations being conducted according to the latest developments in the science of agriculture and rendered as fruitful as possible through the skill and intelligence he applies to them.

On April 22, 1912, Mr. Clark, was united in marriage with Miss Pamelia Schnaitman, a daughter of John T. Schnaitman, who was born in Germany, became an early settler in Calhoun county and now lives in Marshall. He has been successful in all his undertakings in this country and is now a man of considerable worldly wealth. He also stands well in public estimation as an excellent man and an enterprising, progressive and public-spirited citizen, keenly alive to the interests of Calhoun county and always ready to do all he can to promote them.

In his political fealty Mr. Clark is an earnest and devoted member of the Democratic party. He was elected clerk of Fredonia township in the spring of 1912, and is making a good record in the office. Having looked out for himself from an early age, he has acquired a serviceable knowledge of the feelings, wishes and needs of others, and this makes him useful as a public official where the interests of others and the general public are in his care; and having been forced in his own

Hosted by Google

case to work hard and live frugally, he has acquired the habit of making every dollar go as far as possible in use, and this habit he applies judiciously to the affairs of the townships greatly to his own credit and the benefit of all the people. He is well known throughout Calhoun county and everywhere within its boundaries he is highly esteemed.

HARRY B. HUGGETT. Although descended from ancestry of some distinction on both sides of his house, and with traditions and examples of inspiration in the history of his family, Harry B. Huggett, one of the leading farmers of Convis township, Calhoun county, banks nothing on his forebears, but has made his way forward in the world wholly by his own enterprise, ability, industry and good management. And his progress has been so steady, secure and wisely ordered, and based on such manifest merit that he enjoys in a marked degree the esteem and confidence of the whole locality in which he lives.

Mr. Huggett is a native of Calhoun county, born near Battle Creek on January 10, 1864. His parents were Albert J. and Sarah (Atmore) Huggett, the former a native of Rush, Monroe county, New York, born in 1837, and the latter of England, born in 1840. The father came to Michigan with his parents in 1867. He bought a farm in Pennfield township and located on it at once. On this farm he lived and labored to good advantage until a short time before his death, when he sold it and moved to Battle Creek, where he died in November, 1908. He was a self-made man and successful in all his undertakings. The mother died in 1911.

They were the parents of three sons, of whom Harry was the first born. His brother John lives in Marshall township and their brother Elmer in Pennfield township, both in this county. The father was a Republican in politics and served on the board of review for a number of years. He and the mother were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and faithful in attention to the duties in daily life which it enjoins upon all its adherents.

The paternal grandparents of Mr. Huggett of this sketch were Albert and Elizabeth (Taylor) Huggett. The former came to this country and Michigan sometime in the sixties and bought a small farm in Pennfield township, Calhoun county, on which he passed the rest of his life. He was a blacksmith, but only worked at the trade incidentally after becoming a resident of this state. He and his father were both born in England and belonged to distinguished families in that country, one of the traditions of the family being that the Huggetts manufactured the first cannon made in England, and produced other manufactured products of their industry of great value to the country in peace as well as in war.

The maternal grandparents were Matthew and Marie (Pond) Atmore, also natives of England and early settlers in Calhoun county. The first work Matthew Atmore did in this state was on the Michigan Central Railroad, which he helped to build. He afterward bought a farm, and by his skillful management of it became a man of considerable wealth for his day. He was also very prominent in the public affairs of the county, being a man of influence and a leader in the councils of the Republican party in this section. He died about the year 1882, and was at the time of his death one of the best known and most highly esteemed men in the county.

Harry B. Huggett obtained his education in the district school near his father's farm and the Battle Creek high school. He afterward attended a business college two terms, and then turned his attention to

Hosted by Google

farming, which has been his life work ever since. In the course of a few years he bought the old family homestead of his father, and on this he has since lived and expended his efforts. The farm comprises 270 acres, is improved with an imposing and convenient dwelling house and other necessary buildings of first-rate quality and construction, and has been brought to an advanced state of development and productiveness.

Mr. Huggett was married in 1888, to Miss Laura Gorsline, a daughter of S. G. Gorsline, who was born and reared in the state of New York and came to Michigan in the seventies. After his arrival in this state and Calhoun county he took up his residence on a farm, and on this he passed the rest of his life, dying well advanced in years and standing high in the regard of the people of the whole township as a farmer, a man of integrity and sterling worth and a citizen of continued usefulness.

Mr. and Mrs. Huggett have two children. Their daughter Elizabeth T., completed her education at the high school in Battle Creek, of which she is a graduate, and is now living at home with her parents. Their son Albert J., also attended the Battle Creek high school. He is now assisting his father in the management and cultivation of the farm, which is general and comprehensive in its character, based on a judicious rotation of crops including everything suited to this region, and governed with broad intelligence and practical skill in all its operations. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the father's political allegiance is given loyally to the Republican party. Every member of the family enjoys in full measure the confidence, regard and good will of all the people of the township, and these manifestations of approval are freely bestowed because they are based on genuine merit that has been amply shown.

JOHN R. BENTLEY. He to whom this memoir is dedicated was a native son of Calhoun county and a member of one of its sterling pioneer families. By his services he honored the county of his birth and the name which he bore. He became one of the influential citizens of Marshall. He was for many years cashier of the National City Bank of Marshall, and he also was a stockholder of this substantial institution, besides which he was the owner of a valuable farm and other realty in Marshall township and city. He achieved worthy success in temporal affairs, contributed his quota to the civic and material advancement of his home city and county, and was summoned to the life eternal, on the 16th of January, 1899. It is altogether consistent that in this history of Calhoun county be entered a brief tribute to the memory of this citizen.

John Ryant Bentley was born on the old parental farmstead, in Convis township, this county, and the date of his nativity was September 23, 1842. He was the eldest son of Joseph and Louisa (Ryant) Bentley, the former of whom was born in England, on the 22d of September, 1811, and the latter of whom was born in Connecticut, on the 14th of January, 1821, a daughter of Daniel Ryant, who was of English lineage. Joseph Bentley was a boy at the time of the family immigration to America and he was reared and educated in the east. For some time after his marriage he was engaged in farming in the state of New York, and in 1837 he came to Michigan, which was admitted to the statehood in that year. He established the family home on a pioneer farm in Convis township, Calhoun county, and through intelligent and well ordered endeavors he became one of the substantial agriculturists and stock-growers of the county. He was a man who ever

Hosted by Google

held the regard of all who knew him and the names of both him and his wife merit place on the roll of the pioneers of this county. He passed away on the 17th of October, 1888, his wife having been called to eternal rest on the 8th of May, 1884. Of their five children none is now living.

John R. Bentley was reared to the sturdy discipline of the home farm and early began to assist in its work, the while he duly availed himself of the advantages of the locality. Later he continued his studies for a time in Olivet College and thereafter he was for two years a student in Albion College, so that he acquired an excellent academic education. After leaving college he taught one term of school, but he did not find it expedient to continue the pedagogic profession. Under these conditions he returned to the home farm, in the work and management of which he was associated for several years thereafter. He never lost his interest in or severed his allegiance to the great basic industries of agriculture and stock-growing, and until the close of his life he found much satisfaction in giving personal supervision to his fine farm of one hundred acres, situated one mile north of the city of Marshall, on Marshall avenue. He made excellent improvements on this place and it is one of the model farms of the county.

In 1872 Mr. Bentley assumed the position of teller in the National City Bank of Marshall, and on the 3d of December, 1878, he was elected cashier of the institution, in which he continued a stockholder until the time of his death, his incumbency of the office of cashier having continued for nineteen years. In politics he gave unswerving allegiance to the cause of the Republican party, and served on various occasions as delegate to Republican state and congressional conventions. His loss was deplored in the business circles of the county which had ever been his home.

On the 3d of April, 1889, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Bentley to Miss Leora Bigelow, daughter of the late Stephen R. and Rocelia (Day) Bigelow, of Oneida county, New York, where Mrs. Bentley was born and reared. The only child of this union is Miss Ruth Bigelow Bentley, who was graduated in the Marshall high school and then took a course in the Ossinning boarding school at Ossinning on the Hudson.

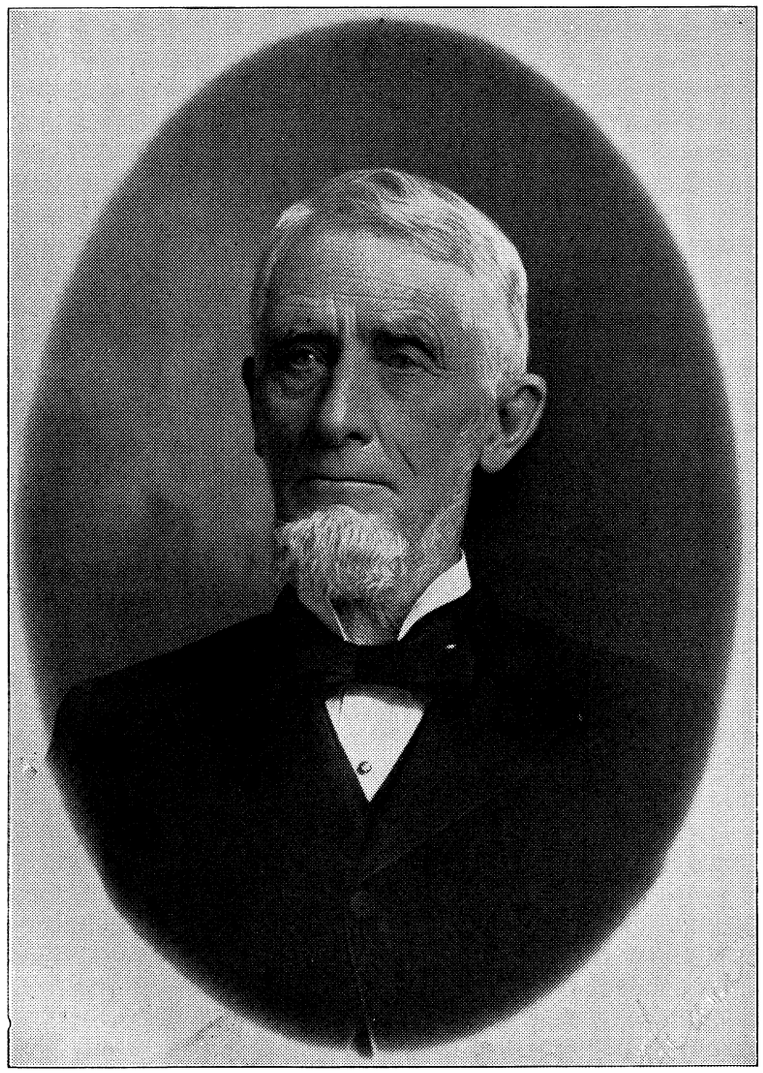
Mrs. F. C. Stuart. The late Mrs. F. C. Stuart was an example of the many wide-minded, zealous Christian women of Calhoun county, who was never at a loss for good work to do and who entered into the work about her with unfailing courage and strength. Though oft beset by the difficulties ever attendant upon the efforts of those who give of their best to those less fortunate, she lived to witness most gratifying results from a deal of her zeal in the various causes to which she lent her aid.

Orpha M. Parker Stuart was born in 1835 at Mt. Morris, New York, the daughter of Mrs. E. B. Parker. Her father with his family, came to Michigan in 1855, settling in Flint, where he was extensively engaged in the lumber business, of which he was the prosperous owner and manager. The Parkers were a family of English descent, and Ephraim Parker, the grandfather of Mrs. Stuart, was an honorable soldier in the war of 1812. His record was an enviable one, to which his descendants have turned with pardonable pride.

Mrs. Stuart was a sincere and earnest teacher for some years prior to her marriage with Mr. F. C. Stuart, an event which occurred in Detroit, in the year 1859. Mr. Stuart was a jeweler of Marshall, Michigan, and he brought his bride to that place which represented their home throughout the years of their wedded life. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Stuart. Frank P., the eldest, died at birth; Alice

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



Nelson Edbrooke

Hosted by Google

E., was born November 4, 1861; F. A., born in 1863; Ernest, born in 1865; Lizzie, in 1868; Walter M., in 1873; Eden B., in 1876. Of this goodly family but three are yet living.

It is not too much to say that no woman in Calhoun county was more widely known for her good works in the various causes which might be expected to elicit the support of such worthy women as Mrs. Stuart. She was prominent in the W. C. T. U., and was a member of that organization until her death. She gave years of strenuous labor to the cause, working hand in hand with the organization and carrying the principles of the society into her home as well. She was for many years a member of the I. O. G. T., and was on numerous occasions sent as a delegate to its conventions during the years of her membership. She took the highest degree in the Daughters of Rebekah, that degree being known as the Decoration of Chivalry and was ever an enthusiastic member of the order. Her work as a Good Templar dated back to 1851, and she was an active member of the society for more than a half century, a distinction which has fallen to but few of its members. In the Woman's Movement of the Crusaders in 1874, she was a conscientious and able worker, and did much for the cause.

Mrs. Stuart was a Congregationalist and a member of that church, and in all the years in which she was associated thus she gave of her best and of that most freely. She entered the work of the church and its various auxiliary bodies with that whole-souled sincerity and zeal which was one of the dominant characteristics of her beautiful nature, and her good deeds will live after her. Her many years of active and helpful life in Marshall endeared her to a large circle of people who have never ceased to mourn her departure, or to remember her with loving thought and word because of the altogether beautiful life she lived for years within their midst.

Mrs. Stuart passed away at her home in Marshall, Michigan, on March 21, 1907, and was buried in Marshall March 24.

HON. NELSON ELDRED. From 1866 for a period of nearly forty years, one of Battle Creek's most conspicuous and influential men in business and civic affairs was the late Nelson Eldred. For those who were familiar with the life of the city during the last third of the nineteenth century, his career as a citizen would need no memorial. To only a small number of men in any locality is it given to wield the power and influence which he possessed and which he also exercised with rare judgment and justice. In the history of the dominant personalities of southern Michigan during the last century, the omission of his name and career could not be justified on any grounds.

The personal history of this late citizen of Battle Creek is closely related with the history of this portion of the state from the pioneer period down to the present time. The Eldreds were not only among the first settlers but were among the builders of the civic and business structure most characteristic of this part of the state.

Nelson Eldred was born at Laurens, Otsego county, New York, January 9, 1822, and died at Battle Creek, September 9, 1903, aged eighty-one years and eight months. Vermont was the original home of the family during the late colonial period, and Daniel Eldred, the grandfather of Nelson, was a highly respected citizen of Pownal, that state, where he spent his entire life. At Pownal also were born Caleb and Phoebe (Brownell) Eldred, the father and mother of the late Battle Creek citizen. Caleb was born in 1781 and his wife in 1783, and they were married in 1802. The following year they made the first stage of their westward migration and settled in the wilderness at Laurens,

Hosted by Google

New York. Here Caleb Eldred bore the brunt of pioneer development in the clearing and improvement of about five hundred acres of land. His was one of the first brick residences in that vicinity, and he burned the brick on his own farm. He was one of the big factors in an early community, and besides directing the agricultural operations over a large tract of land he was one of the early manufacturers of local necessities. His grist and sawmill was a supply center for his neighborhood, and also, in the days when the business had no public opprobrium, he conducted a distillery. His prominence in the county led to his election to the state legislature.

In 1830, six years before Michigan became a state, Caleb Eldred made a prospecting tour of this western country. At Jackson, where he was confined by illness for several days, only two log houses marked the site of the now prosperous city. The following year witnessed his emigration and permanent settlement in southern Michigan. As those familiar with the early history of Michigan, know, at that time the country was "settled up" hardly further west from Detroit than Ann Arbor and all the now wealthy and populous counties to the west were still in the wilderness domain with settlers' cabins only here and there. From New York Mr. Eldred made the long trip with team and wagon, and crossed the Detroit river on the ice. Continuing along the route of the old Detroit-Chicago road to St. Joseph county, much of the time his journey being made through snow, he finally reached the site of Kalamazoo, which then contained one house. The settlement at Comstock, in the same county, it was thought, would be chosen for the county seat, and there Caleb Eldred built his cabin and spent the winter. The achievement by which he gained lasting recognition in the pioneer history of Kalamazoo county was his building of the first grist and saw mill, during the summer of 1832. The same summer he was joined by the rest of his family from the east. The land office at White Pigeon for the sale of all this portion of the state had been opened only in June, 1831, and improvement had hardly progressed to the point of laying out the traces of public roads; not a stream or marsh was yet bridged between Ann Arbor and Comstock.

In the meantime Caleb and one of his sons had found a beautiful little prairie which they had chosen as the site for their permanent settlement. In the discussion of a name for the prairie, the son (Daniel B. Eldred) said: "This caps the climax of all we have seen, and I propose we call it Climax," which name was at once adopted and has been retained to the present day. In this vicinity Caleb Eldred entered three quarter sections, and his sons secured themselves other tracts. After two years at Comstock he sold his mills and removed to Climax prairie, which was his home until his death.

In many ways Caleb Eldred was distinguished among his contemporaries. For a brief time after his arrival in the state he served in the territorial legislature, and became a member of the first state legislature, during the time Stephen A. Mason was governor. He was also in the legislature when its members were invited to ride on the first train run over the railroad west as far as Ypsilanti. During the territorial period he was appointed a circuit judge in Kalamazoo county. In politics in early life he had been a Democrat but afterwards became and remained a stanch Republican. As a member of the Baptist church, he had taken an active part in the organization of the first society on Climax prairie. In a very practical sense he was one of the founders of Kalamazoo College. Elder Merrill, an educated clergyman from the east, whose family then lived in Pontiac, Michigan, cherished the project of founding an institution of higher learning and had ridden over a large area

Hosted by Google

of this region partly on his clerical duties and partly to encourage the idea of a college among the citizens. In Mr. Eldred he found an able and enthusiastic coadjutor, who at once took much of the preparatory work on himself. Together they finally secured a charter for the location of such a school at Kalamazoo, and with the funds raised through their efforts the schools was begun, under the auspices of the Baptist church. For a number of years Caleb Eldred was chairman of its board of trustees. The institution was reorganized under its present name and charter in 1843.

Caleb Eldred died in 1876, at the advanced age of ninety-five, having survived his wife twenty-three years. Ten of their children reached mature years.

Nelson Eldred was ten years old when the family came to Michigan, so that he grew up amid the pioneer environment. From that time on his education was such as the limited local facilities could supply. His father had a private tutor for the children one winter, and in the fall of 1837 he entered the institute at Kalamazoo which his father had been instrumental in founding. Four years of his student days were spent there. In 1841 he took up the practical affairs of life on the farm at Climax prairie, and for many years followed farming as a vocation. At the time of his death he still owned the tract of land where he had begun his career, and the buildings which he erected in 1849 are still standing. A part of the land which had been entered by his father has never been out of the family name. His own homestead consisted of two hundred and forty acres, all highly improved, and not far away he owned another tract of eighty acres. This farm was his home until 1866, in which year he took up his residence and began his business career in Battle Creek.

The previous year he had purchased the hardware store of Brooks & Barber, and now engaged in its active management. In 1866 he bought the residence property at 211 Maple street which was his home during the remainder of his life and where his son Willard now lives. The firm of Eldred & Peters continued in the hardware business until 1871, when Mr. Eldred sold his interests. He then, in association with Richmond and R. P. Kingman, established the City Bank of Battle Creek, a successful institution which is largely a monument to his financial sagacity and judgment. He was one of its first board of directors and the last survivor of this membership of seven. From 1875 until his death he was president of the bank, and when he died was the oldest bank president in southern Michigan. His sound judgment in financial transactions was rarely, if ever, at fault, and this faculty had much to do with the permanent prosperity of the City Bank.

At the organization of the Battle Creek Gas Company in 1871 he became one of the directors, and was connected with this public utility until it was transferred to the new company a few years before his death. Various other corporate business concerns enjoyed the benefit of his financial interest and management. Adjoining the city and near Goguac Lake was his fine farm of two hundred acres, forty acres of which has since been subdivided and constitutes the addition known as Highland Park.

November 15, 1848, Nelson Eldred married Miss Sarah Holden, and fifty years later, at their home on Maple street, they celebrated the golden anniversary commemorating their long and happy wedded life. Mrs. Eldred was born at Arlington, Bennington county, Vermont, a daughter of John Holden. The family located in Michigan in 1838, but she remained in the east until her education was completed, and joined her parents in South Climax in 1845, where three years later she was

Hosted by Google

married. Her death occurred April 11, 1900, at the age of seventy-four. She was a member of the Episcopal church, while her husband attended and supported the Baptist denomination in which he had been reared. Of their two children, the son Nelson died in infancy, and the family's only representative in this branch is now Mr. Willard H. Eldred, whose sketch is given below.

The late Mr. Eldred in politics gave his allegiance to the Democratic party. He was never in practical politics, but as a successful business man and public-spirited citizen his services were sought for the management of several local offices, so that he served as supervisor of his town in Climax, and in Battle Creek was a member of the school board and was mayor of the city for a time. In features and expression his friends often noted his resemblance to Lincoln, and he had many of the rugged but kindly, sagacious but straightforward qualities that such a resemblance would suggest. His life was broad in its interests, largely useful in its activities, and benevolent in its character. He was a citizen deserving the memory of subsequent generations.

WILLARD H. ELDRED, only son of the late Nelson Eldred, in the business circles of Battle Creek is probably best known through the large establishment at the corner of Jackson and Carlyle street where his business as wholesale manufacturer of harness and saddlery and jobber in saddlery, hardware, etc., is conducted. He is closely identified with the larger activities of his home city, and is one of the citizens upon whom the welfare and permanent prosperity of Battle Creek largely depend.

Mr. Eldred was born at the old family estate in Climax township of Kalamazoo county, April 23, 1855, and has been a resident of Battle Creek since he was eleven years old. His education was obtained in the local schools and he was a member of the high school class of 1871.

The harness and saddlery business was established here in 1877, and was conducted as a retail concern up to 1898, since which date he has confined the business to manufacturing and wholesaling of everything in this general department of trade. A number of traveling salesmen represent the house in different states. While this has been Mr. Eldred's principal business for the past thirty-five years, he has also been busied with many other interests. From his father's death up to April, 1910, he served as president of the City Bank, and is still a member of the board of directors. He is owner of a farm, aggregating one hundred and ten acres, just outside the city, and thirty-five acres is within the corporation limits. The old homestead of three hundred and seven acres, in Climax township, is still in his possession. Part of this land has had only two transfers, and he treasures the old deeds patent which were signed by President Andrew Jackson. Among his city real estate is the Eldred block at 2 Main street East, where the Kapp Clothing Company is. His father built this block. Another block on State street is also owned by Mr. Eldred.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Eldred served on the board of public works during Mayor Green's administration. He is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias lodge, is a member of the Athelstan Club, and was a charter member of the Country Club but is not now a member of this organization.

June 23, 1880, Mr. Eldred married Miss Jessie M. Green. Her father was William H. Green, one of Battle Creek's prominent citizens. Mrs. Eldred was born and reared in this city. They are the parents of two children: Helena M., the wife of A. T. Dusenbury, of New Orleans, graduated from the Battle Creek high school just thirty years to a day later than her father. She was a student of Vassar College for a time,

Hosted by Google

and later was in the public library at Battle Creek until her marriage. Miss Morna M., who lives at home and is a teacher in the public schools, was educated in this city and finished at Boston, where she prepared herself especially for kindergarten work. For one year she was in the government Indian school at Shawnee, Oklahoma, but has since lived at home.

WILLIAM H. GREEN. In the death of William H. Green, April 25, 1893, Battle Creek lost one of its valued citizens, a man who had been identified with the community for nearly forty years, and one of the early merchants of the city.

He was born in South Shaftsbury, Vermont, November 22, 1814, and became a resident in Battle Creek in 1856. In the list of merchants engaged in business during the succeeding years his name had high rank. He was an upright and honored citizen, and his career was fruitful of good service to the community.

Besides his contemporaries among the citizens who honor and respect his memory, Mr. Green's family are still represented in this city. He was first married at Poughkeepsie, New York, where he conducted a hardware business for several years, to Miss Sarah T. Free. Her death occurred in Poughkeepsie. In 1853 he married Miss Dorcas F. Lattin, who died at Battle Creek, in November, 1892. The living children of Mr. Green are as follows: Mrs. Burgette L. Dewey, of Dowagiac, Michigan, who is the only one living of the three children by his first wife; Mrs. Willard H. Eldred, of Battle Creek; Mrs. Fred S. Parker, Miss Anna Green of Aurora, Illinois; and W. A. Green, of Toledo, Ohio; Horace L. Green, of Chicago, Illinois; S. B. Pittee, of El Reno, Okla.; Mrs. A. W. Mather, deceased; and Miss Elizabeth A. Green, also deceased.

CHARLES W. GATCHELL. The annals of Calhoun county show many records of the lives of farmers who have rounded out the duties connected with agricultural pursuits, and have amassed considerable fortunes gathered from the fertile soil. One who has met with remarkable success along these lines, and who has the added distinction of being one of the county's self-made men, is Charles W. Gatchell, of Fredonia township, where he is the owner of a handsome property consisting of 117 1-2 acres of well cultivated land. Mr. Gatchell was born in Clarendon township, Calhoun county, Michigan, October 3, 1856, and is a son of William J. and Diana (King) Gatchell.

William J. Gatchell was born in the State of Massachusetts in 1823, and as a young man came to Michigan and settled in Marshall, where he worked as a day laborer. During the excitement over the discovery of gold in California, Mr. Gatchell went to the Golden State to try his fortunes, and there was successful in his mining operations. On his return he engaged in farming, and at the time of his death left an estate valued at about $16,000. He was a Democrat in his political views, and with his family, attended the Methodist Episcopal church, in the faith of which he died in 1874. His wife, a native of New York, passed away in 1869, having been the mother of five children, of whom Charles W. was the third in order of birth.

Charles W. Gatchell attended the district schools of Clarendon township, and as a youth began his business career as a farm hand, working as such seven years. Being enterprising and industrious, by the end of this time he had accumulated enough money to purchase his sister's interest in an eighty-acre farm in Clarendon township, and

Hosted by Google

immediately began to clear it up, selling many railroad ties and much timber to the railroad company. In 1898 Mr. Gatchell disposed of his Clarendon township interests and came to Fredonia township, where for nine years he rented a farm from the Westfall & Briggs estate. In 1906 he became the purchaser of his present fine property, a tract of 117 1-2 acres, which he has developed into one of the nicest farms in this part of the county, improving it with the erection of a new set of buildings and in many other ways. It has been greatly increased in value by reason of his intelligent operation of it and he has every reason to be proud of his success.

In 1884 Mr. Gatchell was married to Sarah Lee, daughter of James Lee, an early settler of Fredonia township, where he spent the last years of his life in farming, and a native of England. One child has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Gatchell: Alta, who attended the Marshall high school and then took a course in domestic sciences at Lansing, following which she taught school for three years and now resides at home. She is a member of the Baptist church, in which she has been an active worker. Mr. Gatchell is a Republican in politics and supports that party's candidates, but does not seek public notice. He is a whole-souled, big-hearted man, always ready to help others, and always willing to assist in the advancement of his community. No movement for the betterment of the township which he approves fails to receive his support, and he has done much to bring about present prosperous conditions. It is to such men as he that the people of Calhoun county are proud to point as representative of their business men and agriculturists.

JOHN C. GOODRICH. With many men there seems to be but one line which they can follow, one vocation which fits their abilities, one special occupation in which they can find success, and until they have settled themselves in that special groove they make but little headway. To the man of versatile traits and abilities, however, any line of occupation which presents itself is acceptable, and if he be persistent enough he will win success in whatever field he finds himself. In this connection it is not inappropriate to sketch the career and activities of John C. Goodrich, of Ellis Corners, who is not only a man of versatile abilities, but is also a good example of the successful self-made man of today. Mr. Goodrich was born April 23, 1871, in Fredonia township, Calhoun county, Michigan, and is a son of John Christopher and Marietta (Fox) Goodrich.

John Christopher Goodrich was born in Wurttemburg, Germany, in 1840, and came to the United States at the age of fourteen years, settling in Michigan, where he lived until 1896, when he left the state. Mr. Goodrich's paternal grandparents never left the Fatherland, but the maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Fox, natives of Pennsylvania, were early settlers of Fredonia township, the grandfather being very successful in his business ventures and accumulating an estate valued at $55,000. In politics he was a Republican, was a faithful member of the Lutheran church, and was well and favorably known all over Calhoun county.

John C. Goodrich received his education in the country schools, and subsequently spent one year in Albion. For a part of one year Mr. Goodrich was employed in a drug store in Marshall, and in 1895, the same year that he was married, started a business establishment of his own at Ellis Corners, where he also acted as postmaster until 1904, a period of eight years, when the office was abandoned when the rural delivery route was done away with. He has a very large and profitable

Hosted by Google

business, extending over a great deal of country territory in Calhoun county, and the success that has rewarded his efforts in this line has been duplicated by that which has come to him as a farmer, he being the owner of an excellent tract of seventy-seven acres. He handles a full line of high class goods needed by the people of his community, and his practice of giving the farmers with whom he deals the full worth of their produce as well as a square deal for their money, has won him a fine trade throughout the town and its vicinity. He is a good business man and realizes that his best profits will come through doing a large amount of business and having the confidence of his customers, and his business has increased correspondingly. He will be found supporting all movements for the good of the public or the community. In politics he is a Republican, and in addition to having been postmaster, has also served one term as township treasurer. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of the Maccabees, while in religious matters he is a Lutheran and Mrs. Goodrich a Congregationalist.

Mr. Goodrich was married in 1895 to Miss Lois Fry, daughter of Charles Fry, a farmer in Newton township, a German by descent who at his death left an estate valued at about eight or nine thousand dollars. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Goodrich, namely: Neva L., who is attending the Marshall high school; and Ruth M., the baby, who is two years of age.

JOHN BLUE. "When agriculture flourishes," observes Xenophon, "all other pursuits are in full vigor; but when the ground is forced to lie barren, other occupations are almost stopped." The truth of this statement has been proven time and again in every part of this country when drouth, long continued, has caused a crop failure, or when any of the various enemies of the farmer have caused there to be a shortage of the agriculturists' products. Therefore it is necessary that the agricultural interests of every community should be carefully conserved, and it is a noticeable fact that those communities which are the most prosperous are the ones which possess men skilled in the vocation of tilling the soil. In this respect Calhoun is indeed fortunate, some of the finest farms in the state being found within its borders, and among those who are assisting in advancing the development of the farming interests here is John Blue, of Fredonia township, where he was born January 11, 1850, a son of Gilbert and Nancy (Born) Blue.

Gilbert Blue was born in the state of New York, in 1816, and as early as 1836 came to Calhoun county, Michigan, and settled in Fredonia township, where he spent the remainder of his life in farming. He was twice married, having one child by his first wife, and by the second marriage there were the following children: Selina, who married Frank Cogswell and lives in Tekonsha; John; Leonard, living in the state of Washington; Arthur, living in Grand Rapids, Michigan; Willis, living in Clarendon township; and one who died in infancy. As a successful and progressive farmer, Mr. Blue accumulated a large tract of land, and at the time of his death in 1884 gave all his children the equivalent of 120 acres of land. The present home in which John Blue lives at this time, was built by the paternal grandfather, Ezekiel Blue, a native New Yorker, who came to Michigan in 1836, took up land from the government, and there spent the rest of his life in farming. The maternal grandfather, also a native of the Empire state, came to Michigan in 1838 and settled on a farm in Calhoun county, there spending the rest of his life in Calhoun county. Mrs. Blue, who was born in New York in 1828, died in July, 1908, in Tekonsha township. Mrs. Blue's father, Wm. A. Warner was a soldier in the Mexican war, and one of the party

Hosted by Google

who traveled overland to the gold fields of California in 1849. Was there two years, was successful there and then returned to Calhoun county.

John Blue was educated in the district schools and subsequently attended a commercial college for a short period, and when his schooldays were over he gave his attention to the operation of the home farm. Later his father gave him 120 acres of land in Clarendon township, on which he resided for twenty-three years, accumulating 236 acres, and in 1900 came to his present farm in Fredonia township, where he has fifty-eight acres of well-cultivated land.

Mr. Blue was married March 15, 1883, to Miss Mary Warner, daughter of William A. and Maria (Finch) Warner, natives of New York, where the former was born in 1816 and the latter in 1820. Mr. Warner came to Michigan with his father and Asie Finch, in 1832 and took up a great deal of land in Albion township, where he spent the remainder of his life. The paternal grandfather, Warham Warner, became a prominent man of his township and gave all of his children a home. His son, William A. Warner, was well known in Democratic politics and held numerous township offices in Calhoun county. His death occurred in 1884 and that of his wife in 1906, Mrs. Blue being the seventh in order of birth of her parents' nine children, of whom six are now living. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Blue, namely: Florence, a graduate of Marshall high school and of Kalamazoo Normal, now a teacher in Coldwater public schools; and William, who graduated from high school, took a three-year course in the agricultural college, and now resides at home and is assisting his father in working the home farm.

Mr. Blue is a member of the A. F. & A. M., while his wife is connected with the Eastern Star at Marshall. In politics a Republican, Mr. Blue served as town clerk of Clarendon township for eleven years and as supervisor for two years. He resigned the latter office on coming to Fredonia township, and in 1912 was here elected a member of the board of supervisors in 1912, a position which he at present holds. He was secretary of the Farmers' Fire Insurance Company of Calhoun county for six years, and a delegate to county and state conventions, ably discharging whatever duties he has been called upon to perform. He believes in progress along all lines, and as a man who has the welfare of his community at heart has the esteem and friendship of a wide circle of acquaintances.

ROBERT P. WISNER. An Athens man who is progressive and enterprising in business, who is genial and agreeable in domestic and social relations and whose interest in public welfare especially in matters of education makes him a particularly valuable citizen, is Mr. Robert P. Wisner.

Mr. Wisner may well claim Michigan as his home, for his paternal grandparents, Abram Wisner and wife located near Adrian at an early period. Their son, Alpheus Wisner, was well known as one of that energetic class of men, who, in the formative period of many of our middle western states, combined clerical with agricultural work. Reverend Alpheus Wisner was one of those spiritually ambitious men who realized the need of the scattered population in the matter of religious ministration, recognizing besides the fact that such a work needed to be supplemented by material resources gathered in some other way when the support of a family was entailed. He came to Calhoun county in the early forties, located in Athens and purchased a farm, a part of which was a government claim. The real purpose of his life, however, was the performance of his work as a Baptist clergyman; and this mission was

Hosted by Google

accomplished by means of the methods of that class of preachers called circuit riders. The importance of such work in the building up of this denomination throughout this section is inestimable and much gratitude still accrues to Reverend Alpheus Wisner, who passed from this life in 1893. His memory has been treasured by many who remember his ministerial services to this region in times of peace and to his country as a chaplain in time of war.

His son, the subject of the present biography, was born in Athens township on November 21, 1860, and received his early educational training in the schools of Athens. His first experience in farming was gained from his working of his father's farm. Here he continued to reside until his marriage.

The first Mrs. Robert Wisner was Phoebe Barneblee, a daughter of James and Sarah (Jacobs) Barneblee. Two children were born to this marriage, of whom one died in infancy. The other is now Mrs. Harle Spore of Battle Creek. During Mr. Wisner's first marriage, he spent several years in residence on his father-in-law's farm in Mendon township. Later he moved with his family to Leonidas township where they lived for three years. After his wife's death he lived for some time in California, later returning to Calhoun county and located in Athens. For seven years he was engaged in the hardware business in Athens, the firm being known as Wisner Bros. During this time occurred his second marriage, when he was united to Mrs. Bell Snell, a daughter of Charles and ———— (Carpenter) Worden, of Leonidas township. The children born of this marriage are Arthur L. and Francis, twelve and ten years, respectively.

Later Mr. Wisner sold out his business in Athens and removed to Battle Creek, where he had interests in the Malta-Vita Food Company. Then the lure of the agricultural life led him to purchase a farm of 130 acres; this property, which is one of the early farms of the county. Here Mr. Wisner now has a beautiful farm, well improved and conveniently near the village, where so many of Mr. Wisner's activities lie. One of his farm specialties is that of dairying, a vocation which of course relates him closely with the life of the village. The creamery which he initiated in Athens is an enterprise of particular interest. Further data regarding it will be noted in the sketch of J. J. Snyder.

A number of official responsibilities have devolved upon this public-spirited man. While in Mendon township he was supervisor. He has held the office of village president. He is now president of the village school board, having held this position of trust for eight years. During his administration the construction of the new Athens high school has taken place. His political theories are Democratic, his individual decisions being nevertheless unhampered by party dogmas. His socially fraternal affiliations are with the Athens Chapter number 146, Blue Lodge and Chapter Royal Arch Masons. From his neighbors and acquaintances one hears only commendatory words of Robert P. Wisner.

Luke Byron Wood. Distinguished as one of the more prominent cattle and stock buyers of Southern Michigan, Luke Byron Wood is carrying on an extensive and highly remunerative business as a member of the widely known firm of Wood Brothers & Outman, his brother, A. L. Wood, of whom a brief sketch appears elsewhere in this work, being a member of the same firm. A son of Smolleff and Martha (Johnson) Wood, he was born, October 10, 1853, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Coming with his parents to Calhoun county, Michigan, when three years old, Mr. Wood was educated in the district schools of Athens township, and on his father's farm was well drilled in all branches of agri-

Hosted by Google

culture. Endowed by nature with sound sense and excellent business judgment, he began while yet in his teens to buy stock, and cattle, and has the distinction of having shipped the first car load of stock ever sent over the Battle Creek Division of the Michigan Central Railroad. In company with his brother and Mr. Outman he has since built up a very large and satisfactory business, shipping each week from three to fifteen car loads of stock to the eastern markets, having a heavy trade in cattle. Mr. Wood also owns a good farm of sixty acres, lying south of Athens, which is not now his home, his land being rented. For several years he dealt extensively in wool.

Mr. Wood has been twice married. He married first, February 17, 1875, Harriet G. McNeal, a daughter of Robert and Huldah (Stevens) McNeal, early settlers of Calhoun county, where Mr. McNeal cleared and improved a good farm, on which he resided until his death, at an advanced age. She passed to the higher life September 13, 1892, leaving two children, as follows: Leo, engaged in the lumber business with Frank Woodruff; and Leona M., wife of Carl Gaw, of Athens, who is in business with Mr. Wood. Mr. Wood married second, April 11, 1901, Mrs. Jennie (Lewis) Wells, widow of Abe Wells, and daughter of William and Ann (Stancer) Lewis, pioneer farmers of Saint Joseph county. Politically Mr. Wood is a Republican. Fraternally he is a charter member of the Knights of the Maccabees at Athens. He is a stockholder in the Athens State Bank, one of the stable financial institutions of the county.

EUGENE H. HILL. There is probably no class of people who quickly grasp anything new and progressive like the prosperous farmer. While he resides away from the hustle and bustle of the city and is not near the manufacturing centers, as a rule, it is really surprising to see how familiar he is with improvements that relate to farming. He is always on the alert for anything that will economize, in fact, there is no more shrewd and hard-headed class of business men than the farmers. The hustling farmer is always on the alert for new inventions which will minimize cost and production, and it is indeed interesting to visit a well-equipped farm and scrutinize the various implements used in preparing the products of the ground for general use. One of the best equipped farms in Eckford township is that of Eugene H. Hill, an enterprising and progressive agriculturist who has spent his entire life within the borders of Calhoun county. Mr. Hill was born in Eckford township, December 1, 1856, and is a son of William N. and Martha E. (Matthews) Hill.

William N. Hill was born in Pittsford, Monroe county, New York, February 15, 1822, and in 1852 came to Calhoun county, Michigan, purchasing 120 acres of land, on which he resided until his death, July 29, 1900. In 1845 he was married in New York to Martha Elizabeth Matthews, and five children were born to this union: Mary E., who married George W. Hinkle, of Illinois, son of Abner Hinkle who came to Michigan and spent the rest of his life with his son; Clinton N. a painter in the Advance shops, Battle Creek; Ida M., who married Carleton Clark and resides in Kalamazoo; Eugene H.; and Mrs. Phenie Joslin, who is deceased. The mother of these children died June 8, 1899, in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, she and her husband having been early members of the congregation at Eckford. Mr. Hill was one of the self-made men of his community, having started out on his career with little but energy, industry and enterprise to assist him in his struggles for independence. In his political views he was a Republican, but public life held out no attractions to him, and his agricultural operations satisfied his ambitions.

Hosted by Google

Eugene H. Hill was married in 1892 to Miss Ida Gaus, daughter of Michael Gaus, the latter being a native of Germany, where he was born September 29, 1826. His wife was born in Germany in 1840, bearing the maiden name of Katherine Goodrich, and came to the United States when seven years of age with her parents, who located in Washtenaw county, and later in Fredonia township, Calhoun county. Mr. Gaus was thirty years of age when he emigrated to this country, and also located in Washtenaw county and later removed to Calhoun county, where he passed away in 1908, being survived by his widow, who is residing in Marshall. They had eleven children, Mrs. Hill being the fifth in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Hill have had four children: Harold, Norma, Arol and Robert William.

Mr. Hill bought his present home in 1901, and now has a farm of 120 acres, 115 acres of which are under cultivation. He carries on general farming and raises cattle, horses and sheep, and has achieved considerable success in all his ventures. Modern methods and machinery are used in the cultivation of his land, and as a result he has one of the best and most productive properties in the township. Fraternally Mr. Hill is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, at Marshall, and his political belief is that of the Republican party, having served his township very satisfactorily in the office of highway commissioner. As a man who stands for progress, education, morality, and good citizenship, he is respected as one of his community's representative citizens, and his many admirable characteristics have gained and retained for him a wide circle of warm personal friends.

CHARLES H. KATZ. One of the enterprising and industrious agriculturists of Calhoun county whose activities are promoting the rapid growth and development of the county's interests, is Charles H. Katz, of Fredonia township, who has spent his entire life within its borders. Mr. Katz was born in Fredonia township, January 25, 1869, and is a son of Charles and Catherine (Hess) Katz, natives of Germany. Mr. Katz's father was born March 30, 1838, and came to the United States as a baby with his parents, Peter Katz and wife. Reaching this country during the forties, he was given such educational advantages as the country school of that day could afford, and was reared by his parents to habits of industry, integrity and thrift, so often found in the German nature, and to the vocation of an agriculturist, a vocation which he has followed ever since attaining manhood. He is now the owner of 262 acres, a great deal of which he assisted in clearing and is known as one of his township's most prosperous and public-spirited citizens. In politics he is a Democrat. He and his wife, who was born in 1845, and died May 15, 1902, had fourteen children, eleven of whom are still living, six sons and five daughters, of whom Charles H. is the third in order of birth.

Charles H. Katz was educated in the district schools and began his business life as a carpenter, at which trade he was employed something over fifteen years. He subsequently spent two years in California, in a lumber camp, and was moderately successful there, but in 1892 returned to Michigan and began working by the day. In 1902 he turned his attention to farming, first purchasing a tract of 120 acres, which he cleared and spent four years on, and still owns his original purchase, although in 1906 he bought his present 205-acre farm. Here he has erected large and commodious buildings of the best material and of modern architecture, and has gradually developed this land into some of the finest in the township. He uses modern machinery, carries on intensive general farming, and has shown himself a thoroughly competent agriculturist in every department of his work.

Hosted by Google

Mr. Katz was married in 1894, to Miss Alma Kidney, daughter of William Kidney, an early settler of this part of Calhoun county, and to this union there have been born six children, as follows: Carl, who received a district school education and also attended school for one year in Battle Creek; Donald, Leona, Theodore Roosevelt and George W., who are attending school; and Charles, the baby, two years old.

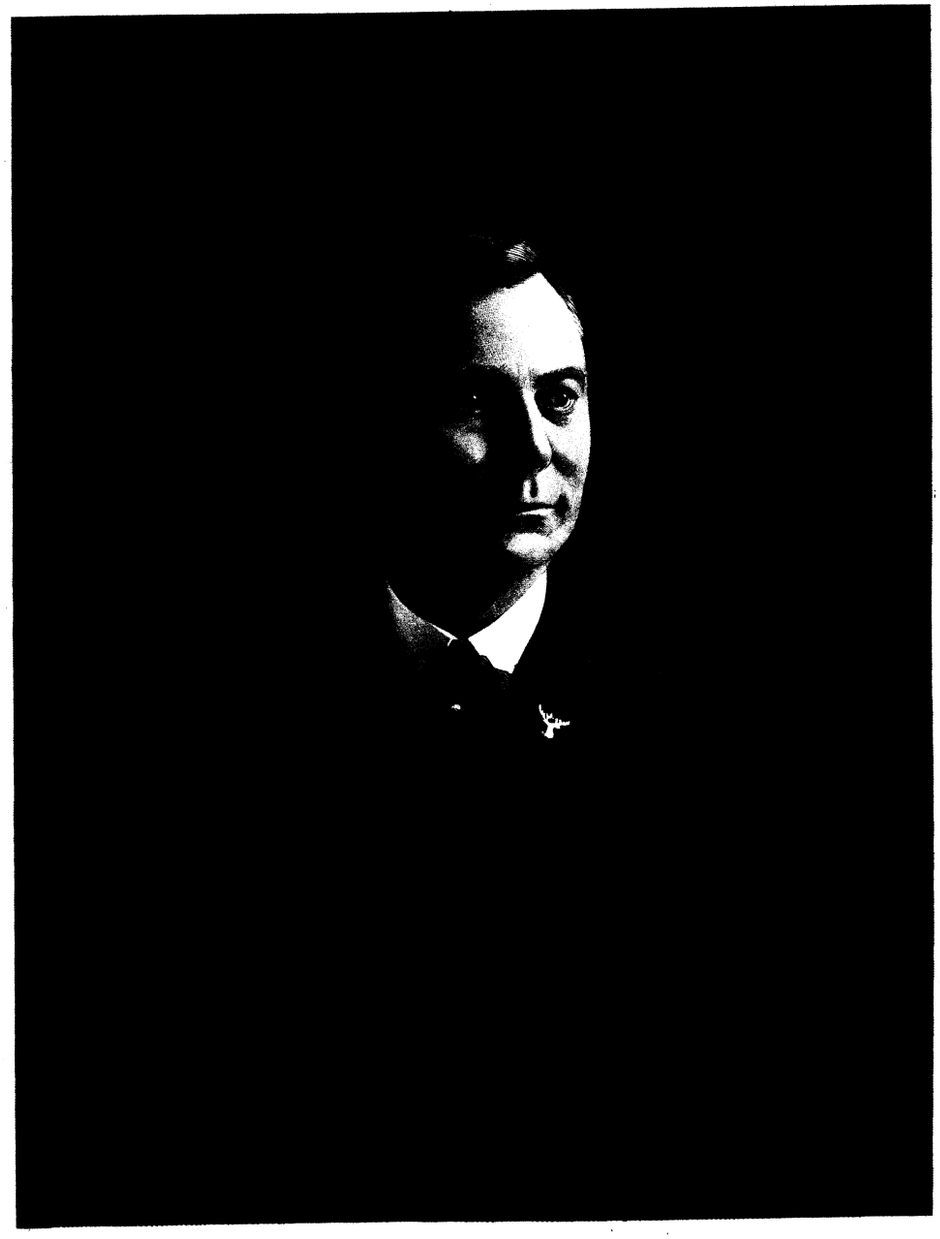
In his political belief Mr. Katz is a Democrat, but has never cared to enter the political field, his business activities satisfying his ambition. However, he takes a good citizen's interest in all matters that effect his county, and any movement for its betterment finds in him a valuable co-worker and stanch supporter. He has a wide circle of acquaintances and numerous friends in Fredonia township.

WILLIAM C. KLAWITER. It is one of the most encouraging facts which can anywhere exist that, in this country, a large proportion of those individuals who by their acquirements and talents have attained a greater or less degree of prosperity, have risen by their own exertions. In the lives of such men as William C. Klawiter, of Battle Creek, there is always to be found something to encourage the exertions of those youths who, without fortune or influential friends, are struggling to overcome obstacles in the acquirement of position and independence. Mr. Klawiter, who is vice president of the firm of John Brennan & Company, and a forceful factor in the industrial life of Battle Creek, entered upon the active duties of life with naught but his own energy and ability to aid him, and has been the sole architect of his own fortunes, molding his own character and shaping his own destiny. He was born in Detroit, Michigan, August 27, 1864, and is a son of William and Katherine (Hilbert) Klawiter, natives of Germany who came to the United States in childhood.

William Klawiter entered upon his business career as an employe of John Brennan, who conducted a boiler shop in Detroit, and continued his connection with the works after the incorporation of the business under the firm style of John Brennan & Company. In fact, his association with the industry was only terminated by his death, which occurred after thirty-five years relation with the house. He was successively promoted until he reached the position of foreman, and afterwards was made superintendent, and in 1883 when the company established a branch house at Battle Creek, for the manufacture of boilers more especially, (the Detroit plant being also devoted to the manufacture of boilers.) Mr. Klawiter moved to this city and as superintendent had charge of this plant until his death, October 1, 1892. He had the unqualified confidence and good will of those whom he represented and was a most capable man in the position which he occupied. He and his wife, who survives him and lives in Battle Creek, were the parents of three children: William C.; Mrs. Harry P. Lewis, of Battle Creek; and Mrs. C. J. Austin, of Toledo, Ohio.

William C. Klawiter was educated in the common schools of Detroit, and on completing his literary course there, learned the trade of boiler maker as an apprentice in the shop of John Brennan & Company, remaining at the boiler works in Detroit for a year and then coming to Battle Creek with his parents. Here he completed his apprenticeship, and after becoming a journeyman was promoted through successive stages until, upon his father's death, in 1892, he was made his successor, becoming superintendent of the establishment in Battle Creek. He has since given his time and attention almost exclusively to the supervision of the plant, having control of the largest boiler works in this part of the State. He is a stock holder and director of the company, which

Hosted by Google



William C. Klawiter

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

owns the works at Battle Creek and Detroit, the Detroit plant still being larger than the one at Battle Creek, and is vice-president of the company, the other officers of which are: F. S. Werneken, president; C. T. Kingston, secretary; and F. E. Werneken, treasurer. This company manufactures all manner of work made from steel plate, welded or riveted, and its products include marine and stationary boilers, upright and locomotive type boilers for tug boats, steam shovels and dredges, boilers for sawmills, locomotive boilers, mounted and unmounted, and feed water heaters, separators, filters, steel piping, steel tanks and heavy plate work. The Battle Creek works are situated at Fountain street and the Michigan Central Railroad tracks. In addition, Mr. Klawiter is a stockholder in the Old National Bank, the Citizens Electric Company, the Battle Creek Brewing Company and the Gartner Baking Company.

In political matters Mr. Klawiter is a Republican, and during 1908 and 1909 served as alderman of the First Ward. At one time he was a member of Battle Creek Lodge No. 12, F. & A. M., but upon the organization of Metcalf Lodge No. 419, demitted to that lodge and became a charter member. He also belongs to Battle Creek Chapter, R. A. M., and Battle Creek Commandery No. 33, K. T., and to the Elks Lodge of this city.

As will be seen, Mr. Klawiter is a typical self-made man, one who by his own ability, perseverance and acumen has risen from a comparatively obscure and poor boyhood to his present condition of independence. He has never married, but resides with his mother at No. 6, East Fountain street, where he has an elegant and comfortable modern home, sursounded by a beautiful lawn. He has a wide business acquaintance throughout the State, and enjoys to an enviable degree the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens, who recognize in him those sterling attributes of character which have done so much to advance and develop Battle Creek's industrial and commercial importance.

FRANKLIN E. ESTES. Conspicuous among the intelligent, enterprising and able men who are largely contributing towards the advancement of the financial prosperity and material interests of Calhoun county is Franklin E. Estes, cashier of the Athens State Bank, in which he is a director, and one of its heaviest stockholders. A son of Freeman Estes, he was born, January 20, 1874, in New York state, where his childhood days were spent. His grandparents, Thomas and Sarah (Franklin) Estes, were life-long residents of New York, both living to be upwards of eighty years of age.

Born in the Empire state, April 11, 1855, Freeman Estes was there educated and married. Coming to Saint Joseph county, Michigan, in 1882, he located in Mendon, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, on which the only improvements were a log house and log barn. He immediately began the pioneer task of redeeming a farm from its pristine wildness, and in his labors met with excellent success. He has erected new buildings of modern construction, placed his land under an excellent state of culture, and has now a fertile and productive farm worth at least one hundred dollars an acre, his estate being one of the most valuable in the neighborhood. He is a Republican in his political relations, and belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife is also a member. He married Sarah Franklin, who was born in New York state, in July, 1856, and they have seven children living, as follows: Arthur C., of Goshen, Indiana; Susie, wife of J. L. Mischler, of Goshen, Indiana; Franklin E., the subject of this brief biographical

Hosted by Google

review; Fred C., a farmer, living near Kalamazoo; Ernest L., cashier of the First State Bank of Mendon; Raymond S., of Weiser, Idaho; and Mabel, living at home.

After leaving the Mendon high school Franklin E. Estes took a course of study at a business college in Petosky, after which he spent a year at Buchtel College, in Akron, Ohio. Thus prepared for a professional career, Mr. Estes taught school eight years, four years in the country, and four years in the Mendon high school. Going then to Centerville, Michigan, he was for five years associated with the Wolf Brothers State Bank. In 1908 Mr. Estes organized the Farmers State Bank at Athens, and it was subsequently consolidated with the Athens State and Savings Bank under the name of the Athens State Bank. This flourishing financial institution, of which Mr. Estes is not only the cashier, but a director, and one of the leading stockholders, is capitalized at $30,000.00, and has a surplus and undivided profits of $8,000.00, while its average deposits amount to $135,000.00.

Politically Mr. Estes affiliates with the Republicans, and while in Centerville served as village treasurer and as assessor. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Foresters, and religiously he belongs to the Congregational church.

Mr. Estes married, August 2, 1901, Georgia Hall, a daughter of George W. and Clarissa Ann (————) Hall, natives of Vermont, and early settlers of Saint Joseph county, Michigan, where her father was a prominent carpenter and contractor until his death, in 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Estes are the parents of two children, namely: Gertrude Helen, and Hall J.

FRANK G. WOODRUFF. Among the native-born citizens of Calhoun county who have spent their lives within its precincts, aiding in every possible way its growth and development, whether relating to its agricultural, manufacturing, mercantile, or financial prosperity, stands Frank G. Woodruff, of Athens, a prominent lumber dealer, and a banker. He was born, July 11, 1860, in Athens township, a son of Nelson Woodruff, and grandson of Gurdon Woodruff, who migrated from New York, his native state, to Ohio in pioneer times, and was there a tiller of the soil until his death.

Born in New York in 1822, Nelson Woodruff went with his parents to Ohio, where he grew to man's estate. He came with his wife to Michigan, locating in Athens township, Calhoun county. Purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of heavily wooded land from the man who had originally bought the tract from the government, he cleared a large portion of it, placed it in a fine state of cultivation, and occupied it continuously until his death, in 1883. He married Sophia Boughton, who was born in New York, and died on the home farm in Michigan in 1907. Of the children born of their union, three are living, as follows: Melvin, a farmer in Athens; Frank G., with whom this sketch is chiefly concerned; and Ralph, a resident of Arkansas. Nelson Woodruff was a Democrat in politics, and held numerous township offices, always serving faithfully and ably in any position to which he was elected. His wife's father, maternal grandfather of Mr. Woodruff, was Truman Boughton, was born and reared in New York, and while yet a young man served in the War of 1812. He subsequently settled on a farm in Iowa, and there resided thirty years and the remainder of his life in Denver, Colorado.

Receiving his preliminary education in the district schools of Athens township, Frank G. Woodruff completed his early studies in Union City, and subsequently taught school a year. Returning then to the

Hosted by Google

home farm, he assisted his father in its management until becoming of age, when he rented it on shares. In 1884, a few months after the death of his father, Mr. Woodruff bought the interests of the remaining heirs in the parental acres, and was there profitably engaged in agricultural pursuits about twenty years, and still owns the entire property. Moving to Athens in 1904, Mr. Woodruff looked about for awhile for some congenial employment, and in 1906, in partnership with Mr. Leo E. Wood, embarked in the lumber and coal business, and has since built up an extensive and lucrative lumber and coal business, carrying in stock large amounts of finishing lumber and builder's material and many carloads of coal. He is also connected with one of the substantial financial institutions of the county, being president of the Athens State Bank, which has a paid up capital of $30,000.00, with a surplus and undivided profits of $8,000.00 Mr. Woodruff has shown marked ability in the management of his business affairs, having begun life for himself with but $1,500.00, a sum which he has since increased many fold, having now a handsome competency. A Democrat in politics, he has served as supervisor and as highway commissioner.

Mr. Woodruff married, in 1885, Lillie Carpenter, a daughter of Henry L. and Susan (Palmer) Carpenter, natives of New York state. Her father, who came to Michigan many years ago, bought land, and was here employed as a tiller of the soil until his death, in his operations having met with good success. Her mother is still living, making her home in Athens. Mr. and Mrs. Woodruff have two children, namely: Madge L., wife of Harry Lewis of Athens, a teacher in the Athens schools; and Lorna A., wife of Leo Harrison, of Mason, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. H. has a daughter, Doris born November, 1911.

DAVID W. CORTRIGHT. It has been claimed by many that the real development of our lands has just begun, that the possibilities of our greatest national asset, the soil, which for all time to come is to be the basis of human welfare, are just being realized. Any thought of the future of the nation suggests the absolute necessity not simply of conserving the soil, but of increasing its power to produce beyond past and present averages, and it is to the progressive, enterprising and highly skilled agriculturists that we must look for the successful undertaking of this great work. Calhoun county, Michigan, has within its borders not only some of the best land to be found in the State, but also agriculturists who have been trained to the highest point of efficiency in their chosen vocation, and whose records in the matter of crop production compare favorably with those of the agriculturists in any other section of the country. One of these men is David W. Cortright, who has an excellently cultivated tract of 240 acres situated in Homer township. Mr. Cortright has the added distinction of being a native born Michigander, having been born in Hillsdale county, February 26, 1865, a son of Cornelius and Cornelia (Webber) Cortright.

The boyhood of David W. Cortright was spent on the home farm, where he devoted his energies to the tilling of the fields during the summer months, in the meantime securing his educational training in the district schools of the vicinity during the winter terms. Subsequently he attended the Union school and the college at Hillsdale, and after completing his course at the latter institution adopted the profession of educator. However, after teaching school for one term, Mr. Cortright heard the call of the soil and returned to farming, being a renter on his father's farm until 1900, when he purchased 159 acres from his father, this being the nucleus for his present handsome property of 240 acres, on which he is carrying on general farming. Dur-

Hosted by Google

ing the past fourteen years Mr. Cortright has also devoted a great deal of attention to buying, feeding and shipping stock, and in both of his ventures has met with well-deserved success. Progressive in all things, he has always used the best and most highly improved farming machinery; his buildings are commodious and substantially built, and his residence is one of the nice country homes of Calhoun county. Politically he is a Democrat, and fraternally he is connected with Humanity Lodge No. 29, A. F. & A. M., and Homer Chapter No. 130, R. A. M. Mrs. Cortright is a member of the Episcopal Church.

In 1889 Mr. Cortright was married to Miss May Phelps, daughter of Edward Phelps, a native of New York, who conducted a foundry and flouring mill in Hillsdale for a number of years. Six children have been born to this union: Wells, who resides at Homer; Cornelia, Howard, Helen and Freddie, who are attending school; and Max, the baby. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cortright are widely known throughout Homer township, where they have many warm personal friends.

DORR B. BURNHAM. At the time of his death, March 11, 1899, Dorr B. Burnham held prestige as one of the prominent and influential citizens of Battle Creek, where he had maintained his home for a long term of years. He was from early pioneer days intimately identified with the industrial and productive activities of Michigan, and through his business abilities accumulated a comfortable fortune. He was a man of inflexible integrity and utmost honesty of purpose, and on his life, ended in the fullness of years and well-earned honors, there rests no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil. Mr. Burnham was born at Williston, Chittenden county, Vermont, December 14, 1825, and was descended from illustrious ancestry, his mother being a granddaughter of the noted Governor Thomas Chittenden, colonial and state governor, who was born in East Guilford, Connecticut, January 6, 1730. He was one of the pioneers of Vermont, settling upon the New Hampshire grants in 1774, and acquiring a fortune from his lands. In 1778 he became governor of Vermont, before its formal separation from New York was recognized. During the Revolutionary War the British and Continental Congress received overtures from him, his terms being recognition of Vermont's statehood. He retired from public life in 1796 and died in Williston, Vermont, August 24, 1797.

Hiram Burnham, father of Dorr B. Burnham, was born in Burlington, Vermont, in 1798, and came to Michigan some time between 1825 and 1830, settling near Saline and acting as a United States government surveyor in the northern woods and on the boundary between the United States and Canada. His death occurred in 1852. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Minerva Chittenden, was born in Williston, Vermont, in 1801, and died in 1848, having been the mother of two sons and a daughter, Dorr B. being the second in order of birth.

Dorr B. Burnham was about three of age when his parents came to Michigan, and his education was secured in the schools near Saline, where he was himself engaged in teaching school for some time. On his arrival in this section, Battle Creek was only a small settlement between the Kalamazoo river and Battle Creek, but it gradually and steadily grew and progressed, and as young Burnham gained in years, he here learned the trade of millwright. Although possessed of but little capital, the youth was fortunate in having the much more desirable possessions of ability, ambition and perseverance, sterling characteristics inherited from a long line of successful ancestors and cultivated by a busy and useful life. With his brother-in-law, H. J. Cushman, he built the Bradley mill, located on the present site of the elec-

Hosted by Google

tric light plant, at the corner of State and Madison streets, and also engaged in buying wheat for an eastern concern. Coming to Battle Creek prior to the Civil War, he built the third foundry in this vicinity for the purpose of manufacturing plows and all kinds of farming machinery, and in 1869 began to make the Boult carver. In 1873 he founded a company to carry on the increased business, C. C. Beach, Frank Beach, J. M. Ward, William Andrus and Mr. Burnham composing the board of directors, and with trees, bushes and the river as surroundings, the company started in business. This proved an instantaneous success, and soon the American Steam Pump Company, as the enterprise was styled, moved its quarters into a large wooden building on Jefferson street, built by Charles Mason and originally used as a railway warehouse. This structure was used for years, but some time prior to Mr. Burnham's death was torn down to allow the construction of a modern building. He was known as the father of the American Steam Pump Company, but after he had secured the services of Mr. E. C. Hinman he stepped out of the concern as far as active participation in the direction of its affairs was concerned, and from that time on was only identified with it as a stock-holder, although his advice was often sought, and freely given, on matters of importance.

Mr. Burnham was an active and stalwart worker in the cause of temperance, and labored continually to make the men in his employ become Prohibitionists, although no employe was ever discharged on account of his drinking habits, it being Mr. Burnham's custom to try to assist his men in every possible way. He took an intense interest also in the cause of education, serving on the school board for a number of years, and lending his aid and influence to all movements tending to aid and develop the public school system, with the late T. B. Skinner and others. He also served acceptably as a member of the city council during the early days, and was constantly being identified with beneficial measures. For a number of years he was a member and treasurer of the Twentieth Century Club. His death occurred at the old family residence, No. 192 West Van Buren street.

On January 30, 1850, Mr. Burnham was married to Miss Harriet McCamly, daughter of the late Sands McCamly, Battle Creek's first prominent citizen, and a sister of Mark McCamly, who was the third white child born in Calhoun county, and now the oldest native white man here. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Burnham: a daughter who died in infancy; Hiram G., who resides in Ann Arbor; Mark H., a sketch of whose life will be found in another part of this work; and George McCamly, who met his death by drowning at Mullett Lake, in northern Michigan, June 9, 1885. All the children were born and educated in Battle Creek.

Mr. Burnham was a good citizen, whose aid to public enterprises and whose bounty in private charity were substantial and appreciable, although in no wise ostentatiously bestowed. Whatever tended to the improvement of the community enlisted his active support, and his public spirit was manifested so generally and so serviceably as to secure for him the universal and cordial esteem of his fellow citizens. His death was a sad blow to his community, and he is mourned by a host of friends, who still miss his genial, kindly counsel.

MARK H. BURNHAM. The son of one of Battle Creek's former oldest and most highly honored business men, and himself well known in industrial and commercial circles of the city, Mark H. Burnham comes of distinguished ancestry, being a direct descendant of Governor Thom-

Hosted by Google

as Chittenden, first governor of the state of Vermont. His father, the late Dorr B. Burnham, a complete sketch of whose life will be found on another page of this work, was known as "the father of the American Steam Pump Company," one of Battle Creek's largest industries, and for a long period of years was identified with the business, social and educational activities of the city, while his mother, Harriet (McCamly) Burnham, belonged to one of Calhoun county's oldest and best known families. Mark H. Burnham was born in Battle Creek, March 28, 1861, and was one of four children born to his parents, of whom but one beside himself survives, Hiram G. Burnham of Ann Arbor.

Mr. Burnham received his education in the public and high schools of Battle Creek, graduating from the latter in 1881, when he became identified with the American Steam Pump Company, with which he was identified until a few years ago. With his brother he owns an equal share in the stock of this company formerly owned by their father, but the greater part of his attention has been given to real estate transactions, and he has erected numerous structures in his native city. He lives in the old family residence, at No. 192 West Van Buren street, which was erected by Dorr B. Burnham at the time of his marriage, more than sixty years ago, and to which the son has made numerous improvements. In addition to this old land-mark, and the acre of land on which it is situated, Mr. Burnham owns considerable other city property, and his operations in the realty field have tended to stimulate the city's building activities. As a young man, Mr. Burnham adopted the political belief of his father, that of the Democratic party, but with the entrance of William J. Bryan into the public arena, he began giving his support to the Republican party's candidates in national matters, although in local affairs he reserves the right to cast his vote according to his own judgment, irrespective of party lines.

Mr. Burnham was married March 1, 1884, to Miss Marion E. Lawler, of Battle Creek township, Calhoun county, daughter of S. H. Lawler. She died April 7, 1909, having been the mother of one daughter, Madge, an interesting child of ten years. Mrs. Burnham's father is also deceased, but her mother survives and makes her home with Mr. Burnham, tenderly caring for her granddaughter, who is attending the public school.

Willard Corydon Phelps. One of the successful and well-patronized grocery establishments of Battle Creek is that conducted at No. 16 Jefferson avenue, South, by Willard Corydon Phelps. This business has been developed through the energy, enterprise and progressive spirit of its proprietor, whose reliable methods have gained the confidence and custom of his patrons and brought about his present prosperity. Mr. Phelps has not confined himself to this line of endeavor, however, as he has been active in developing various parts of the city. He is a native-born citizen of Calhoun county, being a son of Simary and Sarah (Willard) Phelps, and was born in Fredonia township, in the farm home of his parents, February 11, 1869. His two sisters, Mrs. Dr. C. G. Vary and Mrs. Frank Sweet, and one brother, V. S. Phelps, also reside in Battle Creek.

The early education of Mr. Phelps was secured in the Francisco school, in Newton township, following which he attended Marshall high school, and later took a course at Krug's Business College at Battle Creek. When he was fifteen years of age, Mr. Phelps moved with his parents to the village of Ceresco, where he began work in the grocery store of his father, there receiving a thorough training in every branch of the business. On February 18, 1891, he was united in marriage to Miss Dora Godfrey, daughter of Oliver and Emily (Newbre) Godfrey, of Emmett

Hosted by Google

township, and two daughters have blessed this union. In 1893 Mr. Phelps bought a grocery business at Battle Creek, on Marshall street, and continued to operate it for six years, but later sold this establishment and moved with his family to Marshall, where he was business manager for the *Marshall News* for two years. Returning to Battle Creek in 1905, he again entered the grocery trade, purchasing a stock of goods at No. 16 Jefferson avenue, South, where he is now located. In 1907, with Mrs. Lucy Anderson, Mr. Phelps opened Franklin Court from Freylinghuysen avenue half way to Calhoun street, and in 1910, it was extended to Harvard street. During the summer of 1911 he opened the Phelps Addition to Battle Creek, a territory covering twenty-four lots, including Phelps and Terrace avenues across to Bidwell street. He owns these desirable properties, which are located just off the street car line on Lake avenue. and just outside of the mile circle. Mr. Phelps has not been devoted to his business interests to the exclusion of outside affairs, having served as alderman of the Fifth Ward during the years 1898 and 1899, and has taken a public spirited interest in the welfare of his city and county. His contributions to church work and religious enterprises have been liberal, and he is now acting in the capacity of trustee of the Independent Congregational church. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias and I. O. O. F. Lodge No. 29, of Battle Creek, in which he has many friends. Mr. Phelps' success in business may be said to have been achieved by his consummate business methods and sound principles. Always conscientious in the extreme, he has conducted his affairs in the most honorable manner, so much so that for years he has found himself surrounded by hosts of friends both business and social, while those with whom he has come into contact in any of the walks of life grant him that respect and esteem that is given only to the individual whose careers have stood for business integrity and good citizenship.

CLARENCE G. VARY, M. D. Standing among the highest in his profession, and enjoying a not less exalted position in the estimation of his friends, the death of the late Dr. Clarence G. Vary, which occurred August 7, 1910, came as a severe shock to all who knew him and was a distinct loss to the medical fraternity of Battle Creek, where he had been engaged in the active and successful practice of his profession for more than ten years. Dr. Vary was a native of Calhoun county, having been born on his father's farm, three miles west of Marshall, February 2, 1874, and was a son of Edmund and Matilda (Godfrey) Vary.

Edmund P. Vary was born in Livingston county, New York, in Caledonia township, May 26, 1849, but received his education in Marshall township, Calhoun county, Michigan, whence he had been taken by his parents when he was twelve years of age. His father passed away in Marshall, December 16, 1889, having lived retired for six years, and during his active career had been president of the Perrin Bank of Marshall. The mother passed away May 28, 1894, in Union City, Michigan, where she had moved some time after the death of her husband, and both were buried in Marshall. They had a family of three sons, of whom two are living: Edmund P., and Charles H. of Marshall. A half-sister, Mrs. Carlton Miller, who had been born to her father's first marriage, died September 24, 1890, leaving one son, Craig C., now an attorney of Marshall.

After completing his tducation, Edmund P. Vary continued to work on the home farm until his marriage, at that time embarking in agricultural pursuits on his own account. Eight years later, however, he returned to the homestead. and six years thereafter came to Battle Creek and spent two years in business. He subsequently went to Ceresco for

Hosted by Google

two and one-half years, but left that point to go to Olivet, in order to give his son better educational advantages. Since October 26, 1894, he has resided in Battle Creek, where he made his home with Dr. Vary, although he still owns the old homestead of 200 acres in Marshall township, and a part of which is still located within the limits of Marshall. There he carries on dairy farming, Fraternally, Mr. Vary is connected with Calhoun Tent No. 54, K. O. T. M., and his religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church, which he attends at Marshall.

On October 9, 1872, Mr. Vary was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Godfrey, of Marshall township, daughter of David Godfrey. She was born in New York and came from near Batavia to Marshall with her parents, attending the Marshall township schools, Ypsilanti Normal School and Albion College. They had only one child: Dr. Vary.

Clarence G. Vary resided in his native township until his twelfth year, when, with his father and mother, he removed to Battle Creek, his elementary education being secured in the public schools of this city, following which he took a three-year literary course in Olivet College. In 1894 he entered the medical department of the University of Michigan, where he was a student for three years, entering the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, in 1897 to complete his medical studies. He received the degree of M. D. from that institution the following year, and immediately after his graduation acted for one year as interne in St. Timothy's hospital in Philadelphia, where he became known as a careful and conscientious physician. Early in 1899 Dr. Vary opened an office in the Tacoma Block, Battle Creek, and during his years of work here enjoyed a large and lucrative practice. A close and industrious student, he possessed ability, aptitude and inclination for his calling, and that sympathetic nature that always marks the successful physician. He was a valued and popular member of the Calhoun County Medical Society and the Michigan State Medical Society, and while a resident of Philadelphia, belonged to the J. C. Medical Society of that city, one of the foremost organizations of its kind in the east. Dr. Vary has been medical examiner for several local fraternities, including the Independent Order of Foresters, the Fraternal Alliance, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Tribe of Ben Hur, and was court physician for the Companion Order of Foresters and alternate examiner for the Massachusetts Life Insurance Company. He was a popular member of the Athelstan Club, belonged to the Elks Lodge and took a great interest in the work of the Masonic order, belonging to the A. T. Metcalf Lodge and having attained to the Knight Templar rank. The Knights Templar had charge of the funeral party which left Battle Creek on a special interurban car for Marshall, where the remains of the deceased were laid to rest. In politics he affiliated with the Republican party, taking a keen and active interest in all that pertained to its success or to the welfare of his city or its people. However, he did not seek public office, although he served for a time in the capacity of health officer.

On June 1, 1899, Dr. Vary was married to Miss Emma Phelps, who was born in Newton township and attended Albion College, daughter of Simary and Sarah Elizabeth (Willard) Phelps. Mr. Phelps was a farmer during his early life, but subsequently turned his attention to mercantile pursuits, being for twenty years the properitor of a store at Ceresco, where he is now living retired from active business pursuits. He served during the Civil War as a private in a Michigan regiment of volunteer infantry. Mrs. Vary survives her husband and resides at No. 93 Garrison avenue with her parents-in-law, and her only child, Edward, who was born September 2, 1904.

Hosted by Google

In closing this all too brief review of one of Battle Creek's most popular young professional men, we are allowed to quote from an article which appeared in the *Battle Creek Enquirer* for April 8, 1910, and which said in part as follows: "Following an illness extending over a period of seven weeks, Dr. Clarence G. Vary, one of the foremost physicians in the local medical fraternity, and former health officer of Battle Creek, passed away yesterday afternoon, at his home on Garrison avenue, at 5:45 o'clock. The direct cause of death was Bright's disease, and naturally of a strong constitution, Dr. Vary made a remarkable fight against the inroads of the malady, and during the early part of his sickness it appeared as if his recovery was only a matter of time. Unexpected developments set in, however, a few days ago, and since that time he gradually failed until death came. Throughout his illness he bore his suffering patiently, and while the end was not altogether unexpected it came as a severe shock to his family and friends. Dr. Vary was well known in this part of the state, and his sterling qualities and honest and straightforward manner endeared him to a large circle of friends, both in and outside of the medical profession."

GARRETT DECKER. Well may this publication take cognizance of the character and achievements of the honored pioneer and sterling citizen whose name initiates this review and who was actively and prominently identified with business interests in the city of Battle Creek for fully half a century. He was a man of exalted integrity, generous and kindly nature and distinctive ability, so that he left a deep impress upon the civic and business history of the community in which he long lived and labored. In offering a tribute to his memory there is all of consistency, for he did well his part in furthering the social and material development and upbuilding of the fine metropolis of Calhoun county.

Garrett Decker, one of the oldest and most highly esteemed pioneer citizens of Battle Creek, passed to the life eternal on the 1st of May, 1905, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Charles F. Atkinson, at Hinsdale, a suburb of the city of Chicago, Illinois. He had there stopped for a visit while on his way home from a sojourn in California, whither he had gone for the benefit of his health, which has been much impaired for some time. Mr. Decker was born in Ulster county, New York, on the 19th of November, 1835, and was thus nearly seventy years of age at the time of his death. He was reared and educated in his native state and as a young man he came to Michigan and established his residence in Battle Creek, where he maintained his home continuously for more than fifty years. Here he was associated with the late Thomas B. Skinner in the retail dry-goods trade for twenty-seven years, and for the ensuing fifteen years he continued in the same line of enterprise in an individual way, as one of the leading merchants and most honored and influential citizens of Battle Creek. He retired from active business about ten years before his death. From an appreciative article published in a local paper at the time of the death of this pioneer business man are taken the following extracts, which are well worthy of preservation in this more enduring form:

"Mr. Decker was a man possessed of untiring energy, and that trait was ever in evidence, the while his manly Christian character and sterling qualities always made him a most valued citizen and worthy friend. He was an active member and faithful worker in the First Presbyterian church. He left his home in this city a few weeks before his death, accompanied by his wife and his daughter Genevieve, for a western trip, thinking that the change might benefit him. They went to California and other points on the Pacific coast and the change seemed to do him

Hosted by Google

considerable good. A short time before his death he left his wife and daughter in the west, for a more extended visit on their part, and started for the east. He stopped at Hinsdale, Illinois, for a brief visit with his elder daughter and while there an acute attack of indigestion terminated in his death."

In politics Mr. Decker gave his support to the cause of the Republican party and while he never sought or desired public office he was ever ready to lend his co-operation in the furtherance of measures and enterprises projected for the general good of the community. He filled a large place in the business activities of Battle Creek for many years, and here his memory will be honored as long as there remains those who knew him and had appreciation of his noble and kindly life.

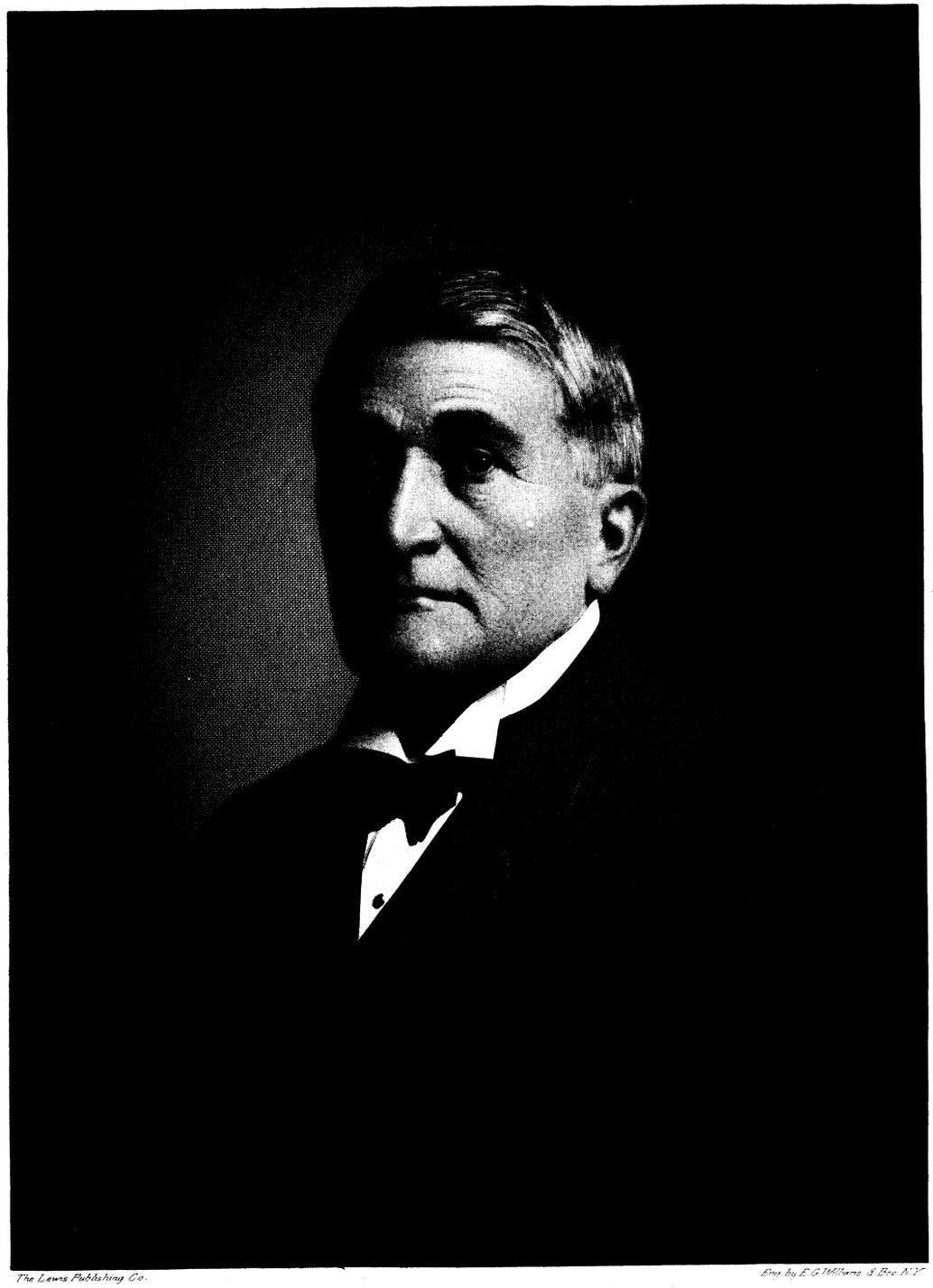
On the 7th of January, 1863, in the village of Climax, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Decker to Miss Jennie M. Bellows, who was born at Climax, Mich., and who was a daughter of Wm. E. Bellows, a representative pioneer of Kalmazoo county. Mrs. Decker, a woman of gentle and gracious personality and a devout member of the Presbyterian church, did not long survive her honored husband, as she was summoned to the life eternal on the 6th of October, 1911, at the age of seventy-one years. After the death of her husband she broke up the old home and thereafter passed her time with her children, her death having occurred at the home of her youngest child, Mrs. Laurence W. Smith, of Ionia, Michigan. Concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Decker the following brief record is entered, in conclusion of this memoir: Dr. Charles E., who attained to distinction in the medical profession, was in charge of the United States marine hospital at San Diego, California, at the time of his death, in 1902; J. Newton, who still resides in Battle Creek, is individually mentioned on other pages of this work; William B. was a student of medicine at the time of his death, which occurred in Battle Creek, in 1898; Edward H., who was graduated in the law department of the University of Michigan, is now a member of the faculty of the law school of the University of Illinois: he was engaged in the practice of his profession in Battle Creek for five years and during three years of this period held the office of city attorney; Anna Louise is the wife of Charles Atkinson, who is president of the publishing house of Atkinson, Mentzer & Company school-book publishers in the city of Chicago, and he and his wife now reside at San Diego, California; Genevieve is the wife of Laurence W. Smith, who is a representative member of the bar of Ionia county, Michigan, and who maintains his home and professional headquarters in the city of Ionia, the judicial center of the county. All of the children were graduated in the Battle Creek high school and all were also graduated in the University of Michigan except J. Newton, whose predilections led him into business activities.

J. Newton Decker. Elsewhere in this volume is entered a memorial tribute to the late Garrett Decker, who was one of the most honored business men and a representative citizen of Battle Creek for more than half a century, and thus it is not requisite to make further reference to the family history in this article touching the career of the elder of the two surviving sons.

J. Newton Decker was born in Battle Creek, on the 12th of January, 1867, and duly availed himself of the advantages of the public schools of his native city. He was graduated in the high school as a member of the class of 1884 and forthwith became actively associated with the prosperous dry-goods business here conducted by his honored father. He was finally admitted to partnership in the business, which was there-

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



The Lewis Publishing Co.

Engd by E.G. Williams & Bro. N.Y.

Charles E. Thomas

Hosted by Google

after conducted under the title of Decker & Son for a period of about twelve years. Since that time Mr. Decker has been consecutively in the employ of the Standard Manufacturing Company of Jackson, Michigan, and as traveling representative of this concern he has charge of its sales in all of the most important commercial centers from Chicago to the Pacific coast, his success as a commercial traveler having been of a pleasing order, as is indicated by the fact that he has been in the employ of the one concern for nearly fifteen years and has represented it in a wide and important territory.

Mr. Decker has continuously maintained his residence in his native city. He here erected, in 1910, his modern residence, which is located at the corner of Calhoun and Chestnut streets. Mr. Decker is a Republican in his political allegiance, both he and his wife hold membership in the Independent Congregational church, and he is a charter member of the Athelstan Club.

On the 20th of May, 1901, Mr. Decker was united in marriage to Miss Gertrude Harrison, of Chicago, who was born and reared at Ottawa, Illinois, and who is a daughter of Hiram B. Harrison, a representative citizen of that place. She is a popular factor in the social affairs of Battle Creek.

CHARLES EDWIN THOMAS. Biographical sketches of those who have attained merited distinction in American law have a charm and force in them that commend them to every sound thinker. An interest is naturally felt in tracing the footsteps of those who have reached elevated positions in public confidence, and have wielded their influence for public good; who, loving truth and integrity for their own sakes, have undeviatingly followed their dictates, no matter what the personal consequences might be. Records of this kind are calculated to raise the ministrations of law in public estimation, and are guides for the junior members of the profession in their pursuit of reputation, distinction and position. Charles Edwin Thomas, of Battle Creek, is one of the distinguished members of the Michigan bar, but it has not been alone as a legal practitioner that he has been known to the people of his native city. Rather has it been as a man who, taking pride in his city's growth and development, has spared neither time, influence or means in promoting any and every movement calculated to be of benefit to its interests, and as a public official who has held every duty a sacred trust.

Charles Edwin Thomas was born in Battle Creek, November 28, 1844, and is a son of Thomas H. and Marinda (Whitford) Thomas, natives of New York, whence the paternal grandparents of the former came from Wales in 1806. On his mother's side he is of English and Irish descent. The parents of Mr. Thomas came to Michigan in 1835, and Thomas H. Thomas became one of the leading contractors and builders of this part of the State, most of the first bridges of the Michigan Central Railroad having been constructed by him, as well as a number of the early mills of Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties. He died December 27, 1850, and his wife July 13, 1881.

The early education of Charles E. Thomas was secured in the public schools of Battle Creek, and at the age of fourteen years he entered the family of Dr. Edward Cox, a pioneer physician of Michigan, for whom the Dr. Cox Block, built by Mr. Thomas on the site of the old Cox residence on West Main street, was named. A sketch of the Doctor appears elsewhere in this work. In 1864 Mr. Thomas entered the law department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and was graduated with the class of 1868. During the progress of his law course he was a student in the law offices of Judge Ben-

Hosted by Google

jamin F. Graves and Myron H. Joy, of Battle Creek, and in 1869 became a member of the legal firm of Dibble, Brown & Thomas, a partnership which continued until 1871, when the firm of Brown & Thomas was established. Upon the death of Mr. Brown, in 1887, Mr. Thomas succeeded to the business, and for some years practiced alone. On May 1, 1881, Mr. Thomas became connected with the Advance Thresher Company, being one of the original five stockholders and was soon after its organization its secretary. As a director and legal advisor and member of the executive board continuously from the date of its organization, he was connected with this great industry until November, 1911, at which time the business of the Advance Thresher Company was purchased by the Rumely Company of Indiana, which also absorbed the Gaar, Scott & Company plant of Richmond, Indiana. He was one of the organizers of the Union School Furniture Company, which burned out with a loss of over a half million of dollars. No man has taken more pride in the growth of his native city, and few done more in promoting the city's finances, the city's industries and conducting them on firm business principles.

A Democrat of the old school, Mr. Thomas in his younger days was recognized as the "boss" of his party in this part of the State, and although his party was for the most time in the minority, he was frequently elected to positions of responsibility and prominence. In 1873 he was elected a member of the school board, and for eighteen years served in that capacity, being secretary all of that time. During this period an indebtedness of $81,000 of ten percent bonds was completely wiped out, and three new school buildings were erected, this accomplishment being credited in great part to Mr. Thomas's persistent and untiring labors. In 1871 he was sent to the council as alderman for two years, in 1873 reelected and in 1887 was appointed to fill vacancy and then the following spring elected for full term. As chairman of the ways and means committee provided the way in the payment of $200,000 railroad aid bonds, the payment of which had been stopped by the Michigan courts and enforced by the United States Supreme Court, after the lapse of five years. The bonds bearing eight and ten percent interest accumulated to a large indebtedness. While a member of the council or school board, no bonds or indebtedness were created except the bonds for construction of water works. Mr. Thomas was chairman of the committee that negotiated their sales, being the first low rate interest bonds. Mr. Thomas has always been a firm believer that posterity should not shoulder the burden created by the former generation. While in the common council he represented Calhoun county before the State Equalization board. In 1882 he was chosen a circuit court commissioner being one of three candidates elected on the Democratic ticket for the first time in Calhoun county in twenty-four years. During Mayor Whitcomb's term and Mayor Bailey's first administration, Mr. Thomas served Battle Creek as city attorney, and drew up many of the ordinances of the city. In 1894 President Cleveland appointed him postmaster of Battle Creek, and during his term of office the post office at Battle Creek, was raised from a second-class to a first-class office and many improvements in the service made. Mr. Thomas is a member of the charter commission of Battle Creek, and by the commissioners was delegated to make the first draft. He also assisted Mr. Dibble in drafting the present charter. He is fraternally connected with the Knights of Pythias and the Royal Arch Masons, and also holds membership in the Athelstan and Country Clubs. During the last fifteen years he has been clerk of Oakhill Cemetery and takes interest in it. He owns considerable

Hosted by Google

valuable real estate in Battle Creek, including the Thomas Block in which the Central National Bank is located, the Dr. Cox Building, and his own handsome residence at No. 216 South Jefferson street.

On November 25, 1873, Mr. Thomas was married at Pennfield, Michigan, to Miss Isabelle Adams, of Penfield, and they have one daughter, Maud A. who was born in the old family home which stood on the present site of the Michigan Central Passenger Depot, and where Mr. Thomas was also born.

The passing of his old home to make way for the erection of the great railroad depot is only one of the many changes Mr. Thomas has witnessed during his long residence in Battle Creek. He has seen it grow from a struggling village into a center of commercial and industrial activity, a city whose fame has spread all over the world. Ever since reaching man's estate he has been constantly and untiringly striving to bring its interests to the front, often giving of his best effort in behalf of his city to the detriment of his private affairs. Such loyalty and public-spirit have earned a well-merited reward in the unqualified confidence and esteem of his fellow townsmen.

Together with Hon. E. W. Moore, Mr. Thomas was executor of the will of the late Charles Willard and carried out his wishes in the building of the Young Men's Christian Association Home and the Charles Willard Library in Battle Creek, and also the dedication to the city of the Charlotte Willard Park. As executor of the estate of Charlotte M. Rogers, the Charitable Union received $23,000 donated by her which enabled that society to built the Jabez L. Rogers annex to the Nichols Hospital. Many other estates have been intrusted to the care of Mr. Thomas by citizens now departed.

CHARLES W. LEWIS. One of the enterprising and public-spirited farmers of Eckford township, Calhoun county, is Charles W. Lewis, who, although educated with the intention of entering the field of business or finance, listened to the call of the soil, and has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. Mr. Lewis was born in Stafford, Genesee county, New York, September 13, 1856, his paternal grandparents being Richard and Mary Lewis, who died in New York state. John Lewis, the father of Charles W., born in Lancastershire, England, came to the United States in 1844, and was here married to Miss Livilla Gleason, a daughter of Fortunatus and Joanna (Farwell) Gleason. Her father was born in New Hampshire and her mother in Vermont. After the death of his wife he went to Burlington, Michigan, to live with his son, surviving but a short time thereafter and being buried in Burlington. Mr. and Mrs. John Lewis began life in the Empire State, where the former died when his son, Charles, was about four years of age. In 1865 Mrs. Lewis came to Michigan and settled upon the farm now occupied by Charles W. Lewis, bringing with her her two children.

At that time Charles W. Lewis was only nine years of age, and had been able to secure no educational advantages whatever. However, he was bright and enterprising, and on coming here soon mastered the studies of the district and graded schools and subsequently took courses at the Homer high school and Hillsdale College, from which he was graduated at the age of twenty-one years. During this time he had intended entering a bank when he had finished his education, and, in fact, had a position awaiting him, but instead chose the life of a farmer, which has since been his vocation. On November 15, 1877, he was married at Homer, Michigan, to Miss Addie Wait, daughter of Nelson and Orpha

Hosted by Google

(Sylvester) Wait, she born in Calhoun county, and her father a native of Vermontville, Vermont. His parents were Greene and Lydia (Moon) Wait. The mother was born in Monroe county, New York, and was a daughter of Seth and Laura (Burton) Sylvester, both born in the East. The former died in Eckford township and the latter at Litchfield, Michigan. About 1840 the parents of Mrs. Lewis came to Michigan, settling in Eckford township and subsequently removing to Newton township, and then later returning to their former location. There Mr. Wait died, while his wife passed away in Jonesville, Michigan, having been the mother of five children.

After his marriage Mr. Lewis located on a farm of his mother's, and this he rented and operated on shares for a number of years, but subsequently purchased eighty acres of land in section 26. Here he spent the time until the death of his parents, since which event he has resided on the old homestead, which he has entirely remodeled, having one of the finest country homes in Calhoun county. He and his wife are faithful members of the Free Will Baptist church, and his fraternal connection is with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Modern Maccabees. His political affiliations are with the Republican party, he having cast his first presidential vote for Garfield in 1880 and has taken an active interest in political affairs. He was elected to Board of Review in 1886 and has served four terms; 1894 appointed census enumerator; elected and served two terms as township treasurer; 1901 elected township supervisor; 1902 appointed a member of the building committee, consisting of two persons to supervise repairs on the county buildings, and served about six years. In 1903 he was elected chairman of the Board of Supervisors and is still holding the office of supervisor and is one of the auditing committee of the county at the present time.

Arthur W. Lewis was born March 23, 1889, in Eckford township, Calhoun county, the only child of Charles W. and Addie (Wait) Lewis. He was graduated from the Homer high school in the class of 1905, and for the past five years has been connected with the Postum Cereal Company, of Battle Creek, as an accountant. In November, 1908, Mr. Lewis married Miss Velma Kay, of Homer, daughter of Samuel Kay, who is now deceased.

JOHN J. SNYDER. At this juncture attention is directed to a brief history of the career of John J. Snyder, a representative citizen of Calhoun county, Michigan, and one who has ever been on the alert to forward all measures and enterprises projected for the general welfare. He has served his community in various important official positions of trust and responsibility, having been highway commissioner for one year, township clerk for four years and being, in 1912, trustee of the village board of Athens.

A native of La Grange, Indiana, John J. Snyder was born November 28, 1873, and he is a son of Reuben A. and Christina (Mallow) Snyder, the former of whom was born at Lockport, New York, in 1838, and the latter at Burr Oak, Michigan, in 1849. The father was reared and educated in his native state and as a young man was employed on the Erie canal. At the time of the inception of the Civil war he entered the Union army as a member of Company M, First New York Light Artillery, and he served as such for a period of three years and eight months, during which time he participated in a number of important engagements marking the progress of the war, including the battle of Bull Run and the conflict at Antietam. After the close of hostilities he returned to his home in New York, where he engaged in farming; sub-

Hosted by Google

sequently he emigrated to Indiana, remaining in that state for one year. In 1873 he came to Michigan and located in Athens township, Calhoun county, where he purchased a tract of one hundred and ninety acres of land, which he cleared and cultivated. This estate is now owned by his son William H., a sketch of whose career appears on other pages of this work. R. A. Snyder engaged in diversified agriculture and the raising of Durham cattle. He was a stalwart Democrat in his political convictions and at the time of his demise, February 4, 1908, was considered one of the most prominent and influential citizens in Athens township. His cherished and devoted wife, who is now living in the village of Athens, bore him three children, concering whom the following brief data are here incorporated. William H is a farmer in Athens township, living on the old homestead; John J. is the immediate subject of this review; and Maude Mae, who married Joel Shutt, is deceased.

John J. Snyder was a mere infant at the time of his parents' removal to Michigan and he was educated in the public schools of Athens. As a youth he assisted his father in the work and management of the old home farm and for a period of five years, after reaching his majority he worked on the farm belonging to his father-in-law. In 1901 he engaged in the hardware business at Athens, being associated in that enterprise with L. E. Doty for some ten years, at the expiration of which, in 1900, he withdrew in order to engage in the creamery business. The Athens Creamery Company is incorporated under the laws of the state of Michigan with a capital of three thousand, two hundred dollars of which Mr. Snyder is general manager, secretary and treasurer. This enterprising concern has an output of over a ton of butter per week and is recognized as one of the best creameries in Calhoun county.

In politics Mr. Snyder is an uncompromising Democrat. For one term he was honored by his fellow citizens with election to the office of highway commissioner and he served in that capacity for a period of four years. He was likewise township clerk of Athens township for four years and he is now a member of the board of trustees of the village council. In a fraternal way he is affiliated with the Knights of the Maccabees. He is a business man of marked ability and it is principally to him that the Athens Creamery Company owes its prestige as one of the important business concerns in this county.

October 7, 1897, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Snyder to Miss Lina Estelle Carpenter, a daughter of Rial A. Carpenter, a brief outline of whose career appears in the following paragraph. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder are the proud parents of four fine children: Carroll C., Mary R., Merna L. and Neil A., all of whom are attending school in Athens.

Rial Allen Carpenter was born at Naples, Ontario county, New York, the date of his nativity being the 28th of October, 1844. He was a son of Calvin L. Carpenter, who removed with his family to Michigan in 1853, locating in Sherwood township, Branch county. R. A. Carpenter celebrated his ninth birthday while en route from New York and as a boy he was a student in the public schools of Athens for a number of years. In March, 1865, he enlisted as a soldier in Company A, Twelfth Michigan Infantry, serving at Camden, Arkansas, until his honorable discharge, in 1866. After the war he returned to Michigan, where he worked on different farms until 1870, when he married and began farming on an estate of his own. At the time of his death, September 27, 1905, he was the owner of a farm of 180 acres in the vicinity of Athens. He was one of the promoters of the American Cement Post Company, of Athens, and was prominent in public affairs in Calhoun county during the latter years of his lifetime.

Mr. Carpenter married Melvina E. Doty, who was born in Bristol,

Hosted by Google

Ontario county, New York, February 12, 1846, and who is a daughter of Chester Doty, a native of East Bloomfield, New York, where he was born January 11, 1816. Mrs. Carpenter's grandparents were Chester and Cynthia (Reed) Doty, natives respectively of Massachusetts and New York. Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter became the parents of one child, Lina Estelle, now Mrs. John J. Snyder. Fraternally, Mr. Carpenter was affiliated with the time-honored Masonic order of Athens, with the Protective League, and the Grand Army of the Republic. Mrs. Carpenter is still living and she is a valued and appreciative member of the Order of the Eastern Star. She resides at Athens.

CHAUNCY M. BREWER, one of the oldest, best known and most highly respected citizens of Marshall, died August 20, 1889.

Mr. Brewer was born October 11, 1814, at Oneonto, Otsego county, New York, and was the second child of his parents, Peter and Emma (Marble) Brewer. His father died when he was nine years old, leaving his mother with six young children. Chauncey remained with the family on the home farm, attending district school during the winter seasons, until March 1, 1827, when he went to the village and began to work in the country store of John Deitz. Those qualities which in after life made for his financial success were early discernible in the young man, for he was always at his post of duty and remained in the same store for eight years and eight months. On November 1, 1834, being then of legal age, and having agreed with a schoolboy friend, Charles T. Gorham, that they would seek their fortunes in the west, he left his employer and in a few days started with his friend for Michigan.

During the winter of 1835-6 he had employment in a store in Clinton, Lenawee county, and in the spring he was joined by Mr. Gorham and the two made a somewhat extended tour of the southern portion of the state, finally deciding to locate in Marshall. In June, 1836, they opened a general country store on the spot which is now the southwest corner of Hon. M. V. Wagner's of "Marshall House" fame. In 1838 they bought land at the northeast corner of State and Eagle streets and erected the first brick building in the western part of the village. This partnership continued until 1840, when Mr. Gorham retired to establish himself in the banking business, in which he arose to considerable prominence and power. Mr. Brewer took his brothers-in-law, Edward Butler and John Dusenbury, as partners, but they retired in 1845 and Mr. Brewer continued uninterruptedly in the business until he turned it over to the management of his sons, Charles D. and Edgar G., in 1873, on the completion of the rebuilding of the old store, at which time he was the oldest merchant in Marshall, in point of establishment.

On October 15, 1840, at Binghamton, New York, Mr. Brewer married Miss Emily L. Butler and brought his bride to his western home. To them were born six children, of which number George and Emma died in infancy. The others are Mary Eliza, now Mrs. Wheeler; Charles D.; Edgar G. and Mark B., all of whom are residents of Marshall, and worthy representatives of the fine old name which their father established in this city seventy-five years ago.

For many years Mr. Brewer resided at the corner where now stands the Presbyterian church, but in 1859 moved into the new and elegant residence at the head of Eagle street, since known as Oak Hill, a place which has ever been noted for its warmth of hospitality.

Politically, Mr. Brewer was ever a Democrat. He was a man of prominence in Marshall all his life, and when the village was incorpo-

Hosted by Google

rated in 1837, was chosen treasurer, and reelected to the same office in 1841, 1848-9 and 1850. He was village recorder in 1839, 1843, 1845 and 1846, and gave the best of service to the village in those offices.

Mrs. Brewer died October 29, 1887, some two years previous to the passing of her husband, and although almost a quarter of a century has flown on the wings of time, both their memories are still green in the hearts and minds of all who knew them in the years of their activity.

JOHN MCKINNEY. In the list of successful agriculturists of Calhoun county, who from modest beginnings have risen to positions of influence and prosperity, mention belongs to John McKinney, who has a well improved farm of 222 acres in Sheridan township.

Born December 19, 1869, on the farm on which he now resides, John McKinney is the fifth born of the eight children of his parents, John and Hessie (Hastings) McKinney, the others being: James Boyd, born in 1857; Peter, born in 1860; William, whose birth occurred in 1862; Hessie; Mary; Isabel; and Samuel J. T. Both parents were natives of Ireland, where the father was born July 13, 1828, and the mother on April 21, 1882. John McKinney, Sr., came to America, as a young man and a few years later was joined here by his parents, James McKinney and wife, both natives of the Emerald Isle, where the former was born April 7, 1806. He located first in Tecumseh county, Michigan, but later came to Calhoun county, where he purchased forty acres of land. He had been married in Adrian, Michigan, in 1856, to Hessie Hastings, and with her as his helpmeet he set about making a home. Determined and persevering, he prospered and through the energetic manner in which he conducted his agricultural pursuits he amassed a property which placed him among the most successful men in his vocation in Sheridan township. At the time of his death his original holdings had increased to one hundred and sixty acres, all the result of his own industry and ability.

In politics, Mr. McKinney was a Democrat and he had served his township as treasurer, highway commissioner and supervisor. His religious faith was represented by his membership in the Presbyterian church, and he maintained a membership in the Ancient Order of United Workmen in a fraternal way.

After pursuing his education in the local district schools, John McKinney, Jr., took up farming with his father. In 1902 he bought the interests of the other heirs of his father's estate, and it with other lands which he has purchased, forms his farmstead of 222 acres. He, too, is numbered among the successful farmers of Sheridan township, the lessons that he learned as a boy under the direction of his father having stood him in excellent stead in his pursuit of agriculture. Like his father, Mr. McKinney is a Democrat and gives his allegiance to that party.

Mr. McKinney married Miss Addie Peterson, a daughter of John Peterson of Jackson county, where he still resides.

NELSON EMMET SHERMAN. A man who will be remembered only by the older generation in Battle Creek, and whose remarkably promising career was cut off in the flush of young manhood, was the late Nelson Emmet Sherman, who at various times held positions of public trust and responsibility, and who had gained an enviable eminence in the ranks of the legal profession. He was born December 31, 1837, at Albion, Orleans county, New York, and at the age of fifteen years ac-

Hosted by Google

companied his parents to Battle Creek, which city was his home during the remainder of his life.

Mr. Sherman pursued his scholastic and professional education in the schools of his adopted city, completing the required course and graduating from the high school. Sometime afterwards he entered upon the study of law in the office of the Hon. L. D. Dibble, and was admitted to the bar in 1864. While pursuing his professional studies, he was in 1861 elected to the office of city treasurer of Battle Creek, being successively elected in the following year, and in 1864 and 1865 held by appointment of the city council, the office of city attorney. He was also, in 1867, elected alderman from the First Ward, holding the office for the full term of two years, and in all these positions acquitted himself in a manner to retain the universal esteem of his fellow-citizens by the ability and fidelity with which he discharged the duties required of him. After having acquired quite a large experience and a very promising position in his profession, Mr. Sherman entered into partnership with Myron H. Joy, Esq., of Battle Creek, with whom he was associated in legal practice at the time of his death, January 8, 1872.

In 1867 Mr. Nelson was married to Miss Mary J. Hubbard, daughter of the late C. B. Hubbard, of this city, and she now lives with their only child, Howard B., a well known manufacturer of brass goods of this city. Mr. Sherman was a man of remarkable uprightness, and besides being endowed with a peculiarly genial temperament, possessed those sterling qualities which caused him to share in an unusual degree the public confidence. His candor and fairness, as well as his readiness and fluency as a public orator, were gaining for him not alone a fine reputation as an attorney, but enabled him to wield much influence in the political affairs of the county and to be of great service in the political canvass in this section. His conscientious performance of duty, both in public and private was a conspicuous trait of his character and will ever be most pleasantly associated with his memory.

HOWARD B. SHERMAN. Twenty years ago was founded the H. B. Sherman Manufacturing Company, at Battle Creek, then a small company manufacturing only several articles, and during this time has so increased its scope that today it is known as one of Battle Creek's leading industries. The founder of this large campany, Howard B. Sherman, is a business man whose accomplishments mark him as one of the section's most progressive citizens, and he has also the added distinction of being a native son. Mr. Sherman was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, June 14, 1869, and is a son of Nelson E. and Mary J. (Hubbard) Sherman, a sketch of whose lives will be found on another page of this work.

Howard B. Sherman was the only child born to his parents, and his education was started in the public schools of Battle Creek. On reaching his majority he gave his attention to the brass worker's trade, and in 1893 became the founder of the H. B. Sherman Manufacturing Company, of which he at that time was sole owner. In 1895 the business was incorporated as a stock company, and W. C. Robinson became a stockholder and treasurer. The business from a small beginning, when but one or two articles were manufactured, has enlarged to the present time, when a large line of steam fitters' and plumbers' brass goods is manufactured, many of the articles being patented specialties which were invented by Mr. Sherman. Among other items manufactured is a roofing nail, known as the "Simplex" nail, which is manufactured in a separate factory on Kalamazoo street, erected and equipped for this particular purpose. A large business has been

Hosted by Google

worked up on these roofing nails, which are sold in all parts of the United States and for which there is a growing demand. The company also operates a large smelting works in which is manufactured the ingot brass used in their regular line of work. This smelting works is also a separate factory building located on Kalamazoo street, and in this is manufactured both brass and copper ingot which is used by the concern in its own business and the surplus is sold on the outside. The present factory building was built in 1900, while the smelting works and nail factory were built in 1907 and 1909, respectively. There are employed in this factory from 150 to 175 hands steadily throughout the year. Mr. Sherman, the active head of this great enterprise, has at all times displayed remarkable business ability and commendable spirit, and is vice-president of the Central National Bank. Last year, through his efforts, the Country Club was reestablished and placed upon a substantial foundation. He is also a popular member of the Athelstan Club of Battle Creek and the Union League Club of Chicago.

On September 27, 1893, Mr. Sherman was married to Miss Ida May Mitchell, daughter of Robert Mitchell, of Battle Creek. They have two children: Marion Louise, at present attending Miss Sommer's school in Washington, D. C., and Nelson E., attending the Battle Creek public schools. The family residence is located at No. 121 Maple street.

CHARLES D. BREWER. On November 8, 1901, Charles D. Brewer,

"Gave his honors to the world again,
His blessed part to Heaven, and slept in peace."

However, his influence in the line of advancement and public spirit and his connection with such institutions as contributed to the material, intellectual and spiritual welfare of the community constituted him a factor whose personality will not soon be forgotten, or his usefulness lost in effect. Mr. Brewer was born in Conneaut, Ohio, on February 22, 1839, the son of Francis E. and Chloe B. (Sheldon) Brewer, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of Leonidas, Michigan. Francis E. Brewer migrated from his native New England to Ohio in company with his parents, in pioneer days, and when the movement of emigration began to take its direction towards the northwest they went on to Michigan, locating in Coldwater. After making their home in the locality mentioned for some time, they removed in the early 50's to Battle Creek and here the father secured employment with Adams & Smith, carriage manufacturers in the early days. Both parents died many years ago and are buried near Marshall, Michigan. These admirable citizens became the parents of three children, the subject being the eldest in order of birth. The two daughters, Emily Frances and Mary died in young womanhood.

Mr. Brewer received such limited public school education as the early days afforded as a student in the schools of Coldwater and Battle Creek. He also resided in Kansas with his father for a considerable period in his early youth, this being previous to the removal to Battle Creek. They went to that state for the purpose of taking up land, but times were so hard there and the difficulties to be overcome so great, that they decided to come back to Michigan. They located here about the year 1857. When young Charles was a youth of about fifteen years, he bade adieu to his desk in the village school room, and set forth like the proverbial hero to seek his fortune. He first went to St. Charles, Illinois, where he worked for a short time and then proceeded to St. Louis, Missouri, where he secured work with a Mr. Fisk, a wholesale boot and shoe merchant of that city. Later his employers established a wholesale boot and shoe house in Chicago, under the firm name

Hosted by Google

of Fisk, Kirkland & Company, which was one of the best known concerns of its day and generation. Mr. Brewer worked for them for a time in that city and then worked for twelve months in Chicago in the commission business in association with his cousin, Correl Smith. Subsequent to that venture, Mr. Brewer returned to his boyhood home and took the management of the *Battle Creek Journal,* acting in the capacity of business manager, and this office he retained for many years, much of the success of this well known publication being traceable to his excellent executive ability and unimpeachable business methods. He was also connected with the office force of the Advance-Thresher Company for a number of years. He had a wide acquaintance in Calhoun county and enjoyed general esteem for his many good gifts of mind and heart. The demise of this gentleman, as mentioned in a preceding paragraph, occurred in 1901.

Mr. Brewer laid one of the most important stones in the foundation of his success by his marriage on November 29, 1865, to Miss Frances Willard, daughter of the late Hon. George Willard, a representative and honored gentleman whose biography appears on other pages of this work. It was with Mr. Willard that Mr. Brewer was associated in the publication of the *Journal,* and it was after leaving the *Journal* that he became identified with the Advance-Thresher. The union of the subject and his wife was blessed by the birth of three children, all of whom survive him. Two daughters, Emily I. and Charlotte, reside in Battle Creek; and the son, Willard Brewer, is located in St. Joseph. Michigan where he is the publisher of the *St. Joseph Daily Press.* He was born and educated in Battle Creek and also attended the business college of this city. The girls are likewise natives of this city, and Charlotte, the younger, graduated from the high school in the class of 1889 and has ever since been one of Battle Creek's most efficient teachers. He was a member of Independent Congregational church, with which his family are connected.

Mr. Brewer belonged to the ancient and august Masonic Order, retaining his membership with a Chicago lodge, and never transferring it to the Battle Creek lodge. When residing in St. Louis, he became a member of the home guards of that city, known as the Hallack Guards and at the outbreak of the Civil war, they were sworn into service. They subsequently became a regiment, but Mr. Brewer did not re-enlist with his comrades. The Hallack Guards saw some hard service, situated as they were on the border between the north and the south. It is an interesting circumstance that in Winston Churchill's novel, "The Crisis," he made the captain of the Hallack Guards the hero of his story.

Mr. Brewer was associated with his father-in-law, the Hon. Mr. Willard, in the *Journal* office, for the decade between 1868 and 1878. He was sixty-two years of age when he passed to the Great Beyond and in the prime of his mental activity. He was genial and kindly, an interesting conversationalist, and the possessor of social and literary attainments of high order. He was, in very truth, one of Battle Creek's most highly esteemed citizens and his memory will long remain green in the community where he so long resided and was so well and favorably known. His wife died July 6, 1912 at her home in Battle Creek.

WILLIAM CONNOR. A man of advanced and progressive ideas, enterprising and stirring, William Connor, a valued and eminently respected citizen of Marshall, has been one of the foremost in advancing the welfare of his adopted city, contributing generously of his time, energy and money towards projects conducive to the welfare of the

Hosted by Google

community, and the good of his fellow-men. As a commercial traveler he formed a large circle of warm friends and well-wishers, and as a prosperous merchant in Marshall gained to a marked degree the confidence and esteem of his associates.

Mr. Connor was born in 1830, at Wakefield, England, a city lying a dozen miles, perhaps, to the south of densely populated Leeds. Private instruction prepared him to enter Queen Elizabeth's College, where he was educated under the Rev. Dr. Carter, at that time the distinguished head of that institution, from which he was duly graduated. Brought up under such influences, he early turned his attention to work that was both useful and good. The first appointment that he received was that of superintendent of the Infant Sunday School of the Church of Saint James, a stepping stone, as it proved later, to general superintendent and treasurer, positions which he held many years. He also filled, to the eminent satisfaction of those who elected him, the office of Rector's warden, as well as that of secretary of the Saint James Temperance Society; and was likewise honored by being one of the first members of the English School Board.

In 1854 Mr. Connor took the degrees of Free and Accepted Masons, and subsequently became a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; of the Manchester Unity; the Independent Order of Foresters; the United Ancient Order of Druids; and of the Shepherds.

Years before, his older, and only surviving, brother had taken up his residence in Boston, Massachusetts, and in 1879 Mr. Connor came to the United States to visit him. Here the usual again took place. He liked America; he liked his American cousins, and he decided to take up his abode with them. This conclusion reached, be brought forward the recommendations that those who knew him were only too glad to furnish, and he soon secured a position to travel in Michigan for the firm of Michael Kolb & Son, clothing manufacturers of Rochester, New York.

In 1880 chance and circumstances brought Mr. Connor to Marshall, Michigan. From the moment he stepped into her confines he was pleased. Whether there was a fancied resemblance to the old city that had sprung up in the English meadows and spread over them, or whether something about the welcoming streets that gave him a kindly greeting touched a responsive chord in his English heart has never been known, but he liked the place, and stayed there, and the old Scotch song that embalms in verse the fact that

"Maxwellton braes are bonny, when early fa's the dew,"

was realistic enough to find itself rising with increasing frequency to his willing lips whenever he thought of the American Annie Laurie whom he had found in one of Marshall's happiest homes. There can be only one ending to the song as he had learned to sing it, and after he had lived in Marshall a year he married the girl whose "throat was like the swan," Malinda Ann, the daughter of Edward and Lavinia Ward.

Happily married and settled, Mr. Connor began life in earnest as an American citizen, and the many friends he made, whenever the thing was possible, pushed him to the front. He was the "most popular man in town" and "lest he should forget" it they gave him a gold headed cane, so engraved, as a willing testimonial of the regard they had for him. The city needed an alderman—he had just the build for that official—and in 1889 he took an honored place among the city fathers of Marshall. Trinity Episcopal Church wanted a vestryman, and who so well as this man, with his church training and church experience, could perform the duties of that office? Indeed they all

Hosted by Google

wanted him, and fortunate enough it was for all that there was enough of him to go round.

"Wilt thou?" said the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Daisy Lodge, No. 48, Grand Rapids; Knights of Pythias, Lodge No. 540, Owosso; the Knights of Maccabees; the Peninsular Club; and the church offices of the Good Shepherd, an Episcopal church at Grand Rapids; and he wilted. In them all he has shown himself to be the warm-hearted, generous, uplifting spirit which those horizon-widening organizations wanted, and knew he would be.

As a commercial traveler—that touch of the trading world which makes this man and the tradesman kin—he holds the same relation to his brethren that Mahomet held to the mountain. "If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain." For years the mountain of this special branch of trade has been stationary, and the traveling Mahomets have reversed the order of things, and have come to him. For twenty years Mr. Connor was connected with the same clothing house, at Grand Rapids, and for eight months of every year the principal part of his customers went from all parts of the state to Grand Rapids, where, at his quarters at Sweet's Hotel, he catered to their wants and wishes. It was one of those rare instances which shows, as nothing else so effectively can, that when confidence is once established between a salesman and his customers the implicit trust in his judgment and integrity will go where he goes, although it be to the very ends of the earth.

It would be an easy matter for the writer to end here the brief story of this successful salesman's life. A man, if he is what he ought to be, is something more than a thing that buys and sells for gain. True, there must be a man behind the bargain; but unless there are mind and manhood behind the man, the ring of the coin that settles the question of exchange is as sounding brass or tinkling cymbal, and, so far as real manhood is concerned, signifies nothing. There may be a glittering record of profits, and the bank account may reach far into the third period of numbers, but it too often happens that the amount, large as it may be, to represent faithfully the influence of the wealth-gatherer upon the community in which he lives, must drop its significant figures, and leave a line of noughts.

William Connor is not that kind of a citizen. He has bought and sold, but his neighbors in the meantime have not been forgotten. The public weal and he have been no strangers, and more than one community has heard the sound of his voice, and has been benefited by heeding his opinion. An Englishman, he emigrated to the United States, but none advocate more strongly than he the measure and the principle behind it, that an indiscriminate emigration law has a strong tendency to interfere largely with the progress of the honest and industrious workman.

As a churchman, he has made his influence felt. Tongue and pen have not been wanting in the expression of his opinion. While a communicant of the church at Marshall, Mr. Connor advocated the free and unappropriated pew system, and it was introduced; and when years had burdened him with church honors, his only anxiety was to step aside to make room for younger men to be brought into church work.

Fraternal organization threw wide open to him its genial doors, and good will on the threshold gave him a welcoming hand; but when he had settled down into its routine, no opinion ever received more respectful consideration than his. If a lodge was to be christened, he christened it; and the wonder was that he alone should hit upon the only appro-

Hosted by Google

priate name for it. He is a member of many fraternities, because he believes in fraternity, and says so. When asked what he thought of the Knights of Pythias, he answered that Pythianism, a thoroughly American organization, is making great progress, and doing as much good as any fraternal order to alleviate wickedness and vice; that so beautiful and tender are its teachings, that it has found its way into Europe, and will soon have lodges throughout the world. Believing this, Mr. Connor is a consistent Pythian, and so leaves the seal of his own character upon any organization to which he belongs.

Like Othello, Mr. Connor has "done the State some service." He became an alderman of the city of Marshall for just that purpose. He was found to be a man with practical ideas, and, given the opportunity, they asserted themselves. The city was behind the times, and he knew it. He advocated the purchase of the Perrine Water Power, and of the putting in of the electric light system, averring that all such possessions should be the property of the city. An injunction alone restrained the issuing of bonds for this purpose; but two years later, when the city had caught up with the advanced ideas of its ahead-of-his-time alderman, it became the owner of the great water power; is today the owner of its electrical light plant; and is putting in a system of sewerage which—when done as it should, and probably will be—will be a blessing to the town's prosperity, Mr. Connor believes, being of more benefit than giving bonuses to induce manufacturers to locate here—a system, speaking from his own experience, that is "a fraud upon the citizens." So declares the business man as an alderman, and so stands the record of a man who has left his impress upon the town which he has aided with his helpful citizenship.

The pleasantest truth to write opposite Mr. Connor's name is his loyalty to America. He remembers—none more tenderly than he—the beautiful land he has left; its mist-mantled coasts and sun-flooded splendors of summer sea; its wind-swept uplands, and its spreading meadows, daisy-pied and checked with hedges of blossoming hawthorn; rivers that wind by crumbling tower and ivy-mantled castle rich in tradition of prose and song; and more than all the home, "and every loved spot which his infancy knew," and, loving not England the less, but America more, he has not tried to turn a corner of the United States into a bit of "Merrie England," nor to here carry out any of the old ways and traditions. The Queen is still the Queen to him. God bless her, but he uncovers his head as loyally to the United States. England's history is his history, but the splendid record of her heroes does not dim the deeds of Washington, whose name he reveres, and, hat in hand, he is glad to do honor to the patriotism of this country, the land of his adoption, which has won and has sustained this country's freedom, and there is no pleasanter ending to this narrative of life, as worthy as it has been useful and interesting, than these three lines which the hand of the successful salesman has written down:

"Here it is written: Toil shall have it wage;
And honor, honor; and the humblest man
Stand level with the highest in the land."

After the death of Mr. Kolb, Mr. Connor opened up a wholesale commission business in the office of Senator William A. Smith, whom he subsequently persuaded to assist in forming a company, of which Mr. Connor was made president, and William A. Smith vice-president, the organization being known as the William Connor Company. At the end of two and one-half years Mr. Connor disposed of his interest in the concern, and retired from the active management of the company.

Hosted by Google

Mr. Connor's home is modern in all of its appointments, richly furnished throughout, and the grounds, which are extensive, are most beautifully laid out, and ornamented with rare shrubs and plants, while the garden, in which Mrs. Connor takes great pleasure, is most artistically arranged, and is bright with flowers of every hue and shade, being in truth a place of beauty and charm.

JOHN WHALEN. With the death of John Whalen, there passed from among us one of the most highly respected citizens of Battle Creek, and one of the oldest residents of the city. For sixty years he was closely identified with the commercial and industrial life of Battle Creek and his loss was not only a personal one, but also left a gap to be filled in the business world. Of a genial and generous disposition he made friends wherever he was, and his undoubted ability and capacity for hard work made him a valuable man in the world of business. His ability to handle men, gained through sympathy and understanding of human nature, made him invaluable to the great company to which he gave so many years of service, and his place was very hard to fill.

John Whalen was a native of Ireland and was the third son of John and Mary Whalen. The date of John Whalen's birth was 1823, and his childhood was spent in his native land. After coming to this country he first found employment in the state of New York. Work was hard and conditions at first hand lost the rosy glow that had hung over them when the land of America had been talked of in the little home across the seas, but he was young and courageous and quick to take advantage of every opening that offered. He therefore remained in New York state but a short time, having an opportunity to come west and engage in the nursery business. This was his first occupation on coming to Battle Creek, Michigan, but he later entered the employ of the Nichols & Shepard Company. They were located at the time on what is now West State street, and were then by no means the important concern they have since become. Mr. Whalen started with them in a modest position, but his ability soon showed itself and he was advanced steadily throughout the forty years of his connection with them. He retired from business in 1906 and only lived a short time after this.

Coincident with Mr. Whalen's daily pursuits of a personally utilitarian nature and his family life which was always a subject of deep interest and importance in his eyes, a reasonable degree of enthusiasm was felt by him for such political affairs as appealed to his sense of responsibility as a member of the Democratic party.

His marriage occurred in 1847, when Miss Anna Dunn, of Battle Creek, became his wife. She was the daughter of Timothy Dunn, who moved to Battle Creek from Barry county, Michigan. He had been a farmer in this section for many years and was one of the early settlers of the section. He lived in Battle Creek for a number of years previous to his death. Eleven children were born to Mr. Whalen and his wife, of whom eight are still living. Of these, John resides in Battle Creek, where he holds a clerkship; William is a machinist, living in New Mexico; James W. is also a machinist and makes his home in Kansas City, Missouri; Anna lives in Detroit, Michigan; Thomas F. is a well known grocer of Battle Creek; Edward C. is the proprietor of a billiard parlor in Battle Creek; Frederick A., who is also a resident of this city, being in the grocery business, and George R., who is also a grocer, lives in New Mexico. All of these children were born and educated in Battle Creek.

Hosted by Google

The death of Mr. Whalen in 1907 left a sense of loss in his large circle of friends as well as in the family whom his death so closely touched. The attitude of all who had known John Whalen demonstrated in marked degree how much the contact of his personality had meant to them. On the day when the last rites were said over his body, St. Phillip's Church, with which he had been so closely and worthily identified was crowded with men and women who followed this departing sign of his recent life among them with the silent tribute of love and respect. The departments of the Nichols & Shepard shops in which Mr. Whalen had worked were closed for the day; their employes formed in line and escorted the remains from the home to the church. Requiem high mass was said by the late Reverend R. J. Sadlier, a funeral address also being given by the priest; and beautiful choral selections were given by the choir, in addition to which the expressive "We Shall Meet Him Face to Face" was sung by Miss Josephine Brokaw. Profuse and beautiful were the floral reminders of affection and high regard, among them being an exquisite pillow from the Nichols and Shepard employes and a spray of roses from the employes of the Whalen grocery store. Then the remains were laid to rest in Mount Olivet cemetery. The sons of Mr. Whalen—John, James, William, Fred, Thomas, Edward and George Whalen—bore to its last home the form so lately tenanted by a genial and beloved spirit. They had performed this same task for their mother who passed from mortal life, on March 26, 1906. She is still vividly remembered as a highly respected and well known resident of this city.

In addition to those who called him father, the surviving relatives of Mr. Whalen are grandchildren, the children of Thomas F., James and Fred A.

THOMAS F. WHALEN, one of Battle Creek's successful and highly esteemed citizens and business men, has been a resident of this city from the day of his birth and is a fine example of the self-made man who attains an enviable position by means of his own unaided ability. He is one of the most enterprising merchants it has ever been the good fortune of Battle Creek to claim as her citizen, and in addition to his keen business ability he is one of the kind of business men who believe that the best method of doing business is to give values for values. He has therefore won the trust and friendship of everyone with whom he has come in contact, and this is the reason he has triumphed over competitors who started on their careers under far more favorable circumstances than Mr. Whalen.

Thomas F. Whalen was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, on the 13th of July, 1870. His parents, John and Anna (Dunn) Whalen, were Battle Creek pioneers. The mother was a daughter of the early settler, Timothy Dunn, who had begun his life in Michigan in the Barry county section, under very primitive conditions, and had later made his home in Battle Creek, where his daughter and John Whalen were married. A further account of John Whalen is given elsewhere in these pages. Thomas F. Whalen is one of eleven children, eight sons and three daughters, of whom eight are now living. He was the fourth in line and with his brothers and sisters received his education in the Battle Creek schools. When he was thirteen years of age he began his vocational activities by acting as a clerk in the store of John Van Valkenburg. In the course of the following years the store passed from one owner to another many times, but young Whalen remained at his post, believing that one way to success was by sticking to a thing. The last proprietor, during Mr. Whalen's connection with the business,

Hosted by Google

was the Honorable Charles Austin, who is now vice-president of the Old National Bank. In 1901 Mr. Whalen went into business on his own account, joining forces with a Mr. Taylor, and established a store at 32 West Main street, where he is now located. The firm was known as Whalen and Taylor, and the good will that Mr. Whalen had won for himself during his clerkship now brought him many customers. After a short time Mr. Whalen bought Mr. Taylor's share in the business and for a number of years conducted it alone. As it grew rapidly and its prospects were exceptionally promising, the owner incorporated his interests, at which time Frederick A. Whalen, a brother of Thomas Whalen was taken into partnership. The concern is now known as the T. F. Whalen Grocery Company, with Thomas Whalen as president and treasurer and Frederick Whalen as secretary. This grocery emporium is one of the model stores of its kind in the city. Its location is the most central and the amount of retail business it handles is the largest in Battle Creek.

Thomas F. Whalen is a man of broad interests and one whose many superior qualities have made him a welcome member of Battle Creek's social organizations. The fraternal orders of the Knights of Columbus, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Independent Order of Foresters claim his membership and he is also connected with the local Athelstan and Country Clubs.

The attractive home of Mr. Whalen at No. 23 Penn street is the center of a most congenial and social life. Mrs. Whalen, who was Minnie M. Bishop before her marriage is a daughter of Giles D. and Adelaide (Van Kirk) Bishop, the former of whom was a wealthy stock buyer of Eaton county, Michigan. Mrs. Whalen was born in Washington county, Ohio, but spent most of her life in Charlotte, Michigan. She was married to Mr. Whalen on July 26, 1900, and they are the parents of two children, Frances A. and Richard T., both of whom were born in Battle Creek. The Whalen family are communicants of the Roman Catholic church and are valued workers in this church.

Benjamin K. Bentley. The owner of a fine landed estate in Marshall township, Mr. Bentley is exemplifying the most progressive spirit in connection with the agricultural and live stock industries in his native county, and is in all departments of his farm enterprise utilizing the best methods. He gives special attention to dairying and in this field is one of the leading exponents of what is a most important industry in this state. He is a man of distinctive business acumen, public-spirited and endowed with those attributes of character which ever beget the esteem of his fellowmen. His standing in the community is unassailable and his prominence in connection with the great basic industry with which he is successfully identified is measurably indicated by the fact that he is at the present time president of the Calhoun County Agricultural Society. Further interest attaches to the record of his career by reason of his connection with one of the honored families of the pioneer days of Calhoun county, with the history of which the name he bears has been identified during the entire period since Michigan was admitted as one of the sovereign states of the Union.

Benjamin Knight Bentley was born in Marshall township, this county, on the 26th day of October, 1868, and is a son of George C. and Sarah (Knight) Bentley, the former of whom was born in England February 24, 1809. George C. Bentley was a lad of nine years at the time of the family immigration to America and he was reared to manhood in the state of New York, where his parents continued to reside until their death. There he received such advantages as were afforded

Hosted by Google

in the common schools of the period and there he learned the trade of carpenter and joiner. He became a skilled artisan and for a number of years continued to devote more or less attention to the work of his trade. In 1837, when twenty-six years of age, he came to Michigan, that being the year in which Michigan was admitted to statehood. He numbered himself among the pioneers of Calhoun county and became associated with another man in the purchase of a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of land, in Convis township. He later sold his interest in this property to his partner and removed to Marshall township, where he secured land in Section 16. Much of this he reclaimed from its original forest state and eventually improved a large and valuable landed estate, the same comprising four hundred and forty acres. He was one of the representative farmers and stock-growers of the county and a man who stood well in the regard of his neighbors. He contributed much to the civic and material development of Calhoun county and his name merits enduring place on the roster of its honored pioneers.

Benjamin K. Bentley found his boyhood and youth compassed by the conditions and influences of the home farm, which is now his place of abode, and he was afforded the advantages of the public schools of the city of Marshall. After completing the curriculum of the high school he entered the Michigan Agricultural College, at Lansing, in which admirable institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1890, receiving at that time the degree of Bachelor of Science. His thorough training in this college has well equipped him for the industrial enterprise of which he is now so prominent a representative in his native county, for he brings to bear the best of scientific attainments in agricultural matters and a practical experience of wide scope. After his graduation Mr. Bentley went to the city of Denver, Colorado, where he assumed a clerical position in the Denver National Bank, of which his maternal uncle, Frank Knight, was an official. He retained this position for some time and then resigned and returned to his native county, where he took charge of the old homestead farm, upon which he has since continued to live and which he has made one of the model places of the state. He has given especial attention to the raising of hay and high-grade live stock, and the county can claim none who has been more progressive and far sighted along the line of agricultural and stock growing industries. The large dwelling house erected by his father was destroyed by fire, as was also the barn, in which were stored many of the farm implements and fully one hundred tons of hay. He promptly erected a new and commodious residence of modern style in architecture and facilities, and the new barn which he built at the same time is one of the best in the county. In connection therewith is also maintained a fine silo, with a capacity of four hundred tons. Mr. Bentley is one of the leading dairy farmers of the county, with a fine herd of thirty-five milch cows, all of which are high grade and many of them are of Holstein breed and duly registered. The dairy barn is equipped with cement floors and alleys and all other modern facilities for insuring perfect sanitation and proper care of the fine stock, the products of the Bentley dairy being unexcelled in quality and cleanliness. Mr. Bentley served two years as secretary of the Calhoun County Agricultural Society and is now president of the organization. He has done much to further the success of the society and to make its annual fairs worthy of the agricultural and live stock industries of the county. He has shown deep interest in raising the standard of live stock raised in the county, and has done much to foster this important phase of the industry.

Both he and his wife hold membership in Trinity Lutheran church in the city of Marshall. He is identified with the Marshall lodge of

Hosted by Google

the Knights of Pythias, and in the capital city of the state is affiliated with Lansing Lodge No. 84, A. F. & A. M. His beautiful home is a center of hospitality in Marshall and is a favorite rendezvous for a wide circle of friends.

In 1893, Mr. Bentley was united in marriage with Miss Bessie R. Stephenson, daughter of the late John H. Stephenson, who was a representative citizen of Lansing. Mr. and Mrs. Bentley have two children, Benjamin H. and Mary E. Knight Bentley, both of whom are under the paternal roof.

EDWARD COX, M. D. In the list of eminent professional men whose activities have served, in days gone past, to reflect reknown upon the city of Battle Creek, no name stands forth more clearly or has greater right to be commemorated in the biographical history of Calhoun county, than that of the late Dr. Edward Cox, for forty-four years a practicing physician, and throughout his life a man recognized as a leader in professional, business and social circles. Dr. Cox was born January 6, 1816, at Cambridge, Washington county, New York, the same county which gave birth to Jonathan Hart, another distinguished pioneer of this city. His parents were Silas and Abigail Cox, both of whom spent their last days in Battle Creek and enjoyed the respect of all who knew them.

In 1819, when Edward Cox was three years of age, his parents removed to Onondaga county, New York, where, after suitable literary preparation, he studied medicine in the offices of Dr. Benjamin Trumbull, of Borodino, and Dr. C. Campbell, of South Butler, New York. He afterwards pursued his studies at Geneva Medical College, at which institution he took his medical degree in January, 1839, and entered upon his profession with a high promise, which was fully realized in his subsequent career. He commenced practice in Wayne county, New York, where he remained but six months, and in September, 1839, came to Battle Creek, which was then a village of a few hundred inhabitants, and permanently established himself as the second regular medical practitioner of the place, Dr. William M. Campbell, with whom he associated himself in professional practice, being the first. The town was just emerging from a rivalry with Verona as the business center of this section. Its first grist mill had been in operation but a little more than two years, only three years had elapsed since its first frame building had been erected, and the advantages here for a professional career consisted largely in promise. Here, however, Dr. Cox cast his lot, and soon, with his associate, Dr. Campbell, built up an extensive practice for those days. With characteristic energy and public spirit he identified himself with measures for the growth and improvement of this place, and came to be regarded as one of the foremost citizens of Battle Creek. For many years he continued in practice with Dr. Campbell, and at one time Dr. S. S. French was associated with them. Dr. Cox welcomed and availed himself of all the recent discoveries and improvements in medicine and surgery while stoutly maintaining his allegiance to the regular school in which he was educated. For many years and to the close of his life he was one of the leading members of the Calhoun County Medical Society, and was a member of the State Medical Society from the formation, serving on its most important committees and in 1878 being made president thereof. At the time of his death he was one of the State councillors of the Detroit Medical College, a position to which he had been appointed by the trustees. He was also a member of the American Medical Association, having represented his

Hosted by Google

State in that body, as also in the International Medical Congress in Philadelphia in 1876. He was a writer on medical topics and prepared many papers to be read before medical societies and for papers and periodicals, which attracted wide attention. It was a special aim of his to maintain a high standard for his profession. One of his contributions was extensively copied and elicited the strongest commendation from leading medical journals and physicians of this country and Europe. Among the latest of his efforts with the pen was the preparation of a series of obituary articles written at the request of the county medical society. These embraced biographical sketches of several of the pioneer physicians of the county. A few days prior to his death he expressed the desire that the words "Practicing Physician for Forty-four years" should be inscribed upon his coffin.

In politics Dr. Cox was a party leader and was most actively identified with the politics of the city and State. About 1844 he became conspicuous as one of the Young Democracy who began to assert themselves and to assume prominence and succeeding to the place of the older members of the party, Sands McCamley, Moses Hall, John Champion, Michael Spencer, Col. John Stewart, William M. Campbell and others who had previously controlled party affairs. In lieu of these arose, not in direct antagonism, but seeking to make their influence more positively felt, Dr. Cox, Benjamin F. Graves, Thomas H. Thomas, Abner E. Campbell, Joseph Barton, the Stillsons, Alonzo Noble and T. W. Hall. Among these, Dr. Cox soon took marked prominence, and displayed that he possessed the qualities for leadership. He was at one time a member of the State Central Committee, and in 1872 was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Baltimore. He was offered nomination on the State ticket, but declined. In 1853 he was president of the village of Battle Creek, and was one of the city's first aldermen, a position he held for six years. During 1873 and 1874 he served as mayor of the city, and was also at one time a member of the school board and member for many years of the cemetery board, of which he was president at the time of his death.

In the Masonic fraternity he was master of his lodge at Battle Creek, belonged to the Knights Templar, was high priest of the Royal Arch Chapter and grand master of the Council of Royal and Select Masons. For many years he was vestryman of St. Thomas Episcopal Church here.

Dr. Cox was twice married, his first wife being Esther Ann Starkweather, to whom he was married September 2, 1840, and was the first adult person buried in Oakhill Cemetery. On May 1, 1845, he married Miss Sarah Adams, of Penfield, Michigan. Three children were born to Dr. Cox, one by his first wife, a daughter who died at the age of eight years, and two by his second wife, these children dying in infancy. Dr. Cox had three sisters: Mrs. Dr. S. S. French, Mrs. T. C. Gardner and Mrs. H. M. Joy.

EDGAR L. LAMPHIER, born in Bloomfield, New York in October, 1848, is one of the leading agricultural men of Marshall township, of which he has been a resident for the past forty years. He is the son of Marx H. and Susan (Lianes) Lamphier, both natives of New York state, where they passed their younger years, coming to Michigan in 1851. For a short time they made their home in Jackson county, this state, where the father engaged in farming and dealing in salt. He died in 1849, and his wife about 1895, so that their son, Edgar L., has but little knowledge of his father.

As a boy in his father's home, Edgar Lamphier received a start in

Hosted by Google

the district schools of his community, and he passed his boyhood days on various farms in Jackson county until he was twenty-one years old, which marked the time of his advent into Calhoun county. He located on the old Waits farm, as it was then known, comprised of one hundred and sixty acres, and he has lived thereon for the past thirty years, engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He has improved his farm in every way possible to the progressive and wide-awake farmer, and the place lacks nothing in the way of machinery and implements. In 1911 Mr. Lamphier acquired the farm adjoining his, thus adding an additional hundred acres to his already fine place, and it is one of the most fruitful farms in the township. Mr. Lamphier has made a careful study of the business from a scientific viewpoint, and by familiarizing himself with the wants of the soil and guiding his operations accordingly, he is able to keep his land in a fine state of richness, which yield him an abundant return for every item in time and money expended thereon. Hay and grain comprise a considerable portion of his crops, and he devotes a considerable attention to stock-raising as well. The dwelling on the Lamphier farm is a substantial brick affair, while the barns and other buildings are in an admirable state of repair, speaking well of the thrift and prosperity of their owner.

In 1872 Mr. Lamphier married Miss Susan Vaughn, one time of Arkansaw and a native of Georgia, the daughter of Jarrett Vaughn. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lamphier: William V., an engineer in the railroad service; George W., a farmer in Fredonia township; Albert E. on the home farm; Roy M.; Albert B.; Eva G., the wife of Arthur Brownell of Albion; Martha is the wife of Albert Langridge; Ross E. is at home, and Esther M. and Grace are also at home, attendants of the Marshall high school. They have two grandchildren, Helen, aged seven years and Albert, in his fourth year.

Mr. Lamphier is a Republican, and has served his community as township treasurer. He is now justice of the peace being elected to the latter office on a mixed ticket of Democrat and Republican.

Mr. Lamphier is not only a successful and intelligent farmer, but he is a man well versed in the topics of the day, and a good and reputable citizen with the confidence and respect of all who know him.

ABRAM L. WOOD. Conspicuous among the foremost agriculturists and successful business men of Calhoun county is Abram L. Wood, of Athens township, an extensive landholder and stock grower, and a member of the firm of Wood Brothers & Outman, the leading cattle dealers of this part of the state. A native of Ohio, he was born March 18, 1851, near the city of Cleveland, the son of Smolleff and Martha (Johnson) Wood.

Smolleff Wood was born in New York state during the latter twenties, and spent a part of his earlier life in Cleveland, Ohio, where he acquired some property. Shortly after his marriage he exchanged his Cleveland holdings for one hundred acres of land in Athens township, Calhoun county, Michigan, and immediately assumed its possession. He embarked in agricultural pursuits, and in addition to general farming became one of the foremost stock dealers of Calhoun county, buying and shipping cattle by the train-load to the New York market. He died in Quincy, Michigan, during the Civil war, leaving to his heirs a fine estate. His widow, who was born in New York state about the same year that he was born, died in Calhoun county.

Abram L. Wood, after completing his studies in the district schools, continued in the free and independent occupation of his ancestors, and is now engaged in agricultural pursuits on a finely improved farm of two hundred acres. Inheriting in no small measure the foresight and ability

Hosted by Google

in a business way which was the secret of his father's success, Mr. Wood, together with his brother, L. B. Wood and Mr. Outman, has built up a good business in buying and shipping stock This enterprising firm of Wood Brothers & Outman ships on an average four or five car loads of stock every Wednesday from all points along the railroad line from Battle Creek south. Their business is established on sound principles, and the firm is well and favorably known throughout the territory in which they operate.

In 1885 Mr. Wood was united in marriage with Miss Lydia Race, daughter of John and Mary Race, natives of New York state. Mr. Race was engaged in the dairy business in that state for a number of years, and after coming to Michigan turned his attention to mercantile pursuits and farming, living first in Union City and later in Grand Rapids, where his death occurred in 1901. He was a man of sterling integrity, a Republican in politics, and a consistent member of the Baptist church, while his wife was a Congregationalist. They had two children—Anna, the wife of Grove Church, and Mrs. Wood. One child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wood—Lynn, who is yet with his parents.

GEORGE S. BARNES. The success and influence of no enterprise in Battle Creek have been more noteworthy than that of "The Michigan Poultry Breeder," a journal which has had a growing prosperity and circulating for more than a quarter of a century. Its originator, Mr. George S. Barnes, is still its editor, and the remarkable success of the publication is an achievement for which he deserves full credit. Mr. Barnes began his career when a boy by learning the printing trade. A practical printer, he later became both a practical and professional poultryman, and the permanence and continued influence of his journal have been the result of this thorough experience in two lines of accomplishment.

Mr. Barnes is a native of Rochester, New York, where he was born March 6, 1867, the son of Wilsey G. and Madeline (Sackett) Barnes. The mother was a resident of Albion, Michigan, before her marriage, and was married there, after which she went east to reside. The father was a druggist, and it is an item of interest that he put the long-known breath perfume, "Trix," on the market. About three years after the birth of the son George, the parents moved to Battle Creek, where his mother soon afterward died. His father on account of poor health went to northern Michigan and returned to this city only a few weeks before his death in 1889.

At this early age George S. Barnes was left in the care of his father's unmarried brother and sister, Uncle Philander and Aunt Harriet Barnes, in Battle Creek. He attended the public schools here, and at the age of sixteen learned the printing trade. For a year and a half he worked on the Reed City Clarion, in this state, and afterwards was employed in printing establishments of Battle Creek for a time.

The publication of the *Michigan Poultry Breeder* was begun in 1885 when Mr. Barnes was eighteen years old. For three years nearly all the work on the journal was done at night, during the day the proprietor and editor was engaged in his regular trade in order to earn the necessary capital to place his publication on an independent basis. At the same time he bought the *Game Fancier's Journal,* which was continued for a quarter of a century until 1909, when Mr. Barnes sold it. The first issue of the *Poultry Breeder,* in January, 1885, was distributed free, and depended on its own merit to win subscriptions and popularity. It was at first an eight-page paper. After three years the journal was self-supporting, and since then Mr. Barnes has given most of his energies to

Hosted by Google

making this one of the best monthly journals of the kind in the United States, and has succeeded so well that only a few enterprises of the kind rank in the same class. The size of the *Breeder* has been increased and the monthly issue is several thousand copies, and its subscribers are to be found in every one of the forty-eight states of the Union.

As a practical poultryman, Mr. Barnes has since 1891 been engaged in the breeding of high class Single Comb Buff Leghorns, of which he has one of the finest flocks in America. His exhibits at the various poultry shows have won blue ribbons in Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, New York and other cities. Besides city real estate and a farm of forty acres, Mr. Barnes is the owner of a model home just inside the city limits, where he conducts this branch of his business, which has assumed very profitable proportions.

An elegant four family flat is located on Green street, one of the most handsome and best shaded thoroughfares in Battle Creek, and is owned by ex-mayor of the city, Geo. S. Barnes, proprietor of the famous S. C. Buff Leghorn yards. This flat is free and clear from all incumbrances. It was entirely paid for by a yearly flock of from 125 to 150 Buff Leghorns, in just twelve years time.

In politics a Republican, casting his first presidential vote for Harrison in 1888, Mr. Barnes has taken an active part in local political and municipal affairs. As alderman from the Fourth Ward for four years, he was chairman of the committee on printing, the police department, and the side and cross walks. His efforts to divorce politics from the police department, was successful, and proved a great benefit. He was one of the most energetic supporters of the street paving measure, which was carried over the mayor's veto, thus providing for the first permanent paving in Battle Creek. He was a member of the board of public works six years, during which time he was its secretary and also president. During the years 1905-06 he served as mayor of the city, an administration which was productive of much substantial benefit to the municipality. In the fall of 1910 Mr. Barnes was first a candidate for county office, at which time he was elected county treasurer, and has held that office since the first of January, 1911. Fraternally he is a member of the Elks lodge. For five years he has been a member of the executive board of the American Poultry Association, and has been secretary and treasurer of the American Buff Leghorn Club for the past eleven years.

Mr. Barnes and his family reside at 678 Maple street in Battle Creek. He was married December 4, 1889, to Miss Fannie C. Webb. Mrs. Barnes is a native of Battle Creek, where she received her education. Her parents, both of whom are now deceased, were Caleb and Sarah (Green) Webb, old and respected residents of this city. One child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Barnes: Madeline P., who died on May 19, 1912, at the age of twenty-one years. A local paper has to say of the sad event:

"The home of County Treasurer and Mrs. George S. Barnes, 678 Maple street, is saddened by the demise of their only child, Miss Madeline Barnes, who passed away at 4:30 o'clock Sunday morning after an illness which began Feb. 27, when Miss Barnes was stricken with typhoid fever. Since that time the disease has run its tedious course, resulting in a complicated stomach trouble which terminated the life of this interesting young woman, who had attained the age of 21 years. The decedent was born and educated in Battle Creek, finishing her school work with graduation in the class of 1909. With the election of Mr. Barnes as county treasurer his daughter was duly appointed deputy and has since given the duties of that office her conscientious attention, discharging all the responsibilities with promptness and to the satisfaction of the county. A wide circle of business acquaintances was acquired and the

Hosted by Google

many testimonials to the worth and character of this young woman are evidence of her proficiency and courtesy. Miss Barnes was of very quiet and retiring disposition, but those traits won the lasting affection and esteem of hosts of friends who will join the family in mourning the untimely departure of one in the springtime of life. In the home of the decedent was an obedient and devoted daughter, giving her parents the best love of a pure and tender heart, and it is here that the affliction falls heaviest. Services in memory of Miss Barnes will be held at the residence Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock, Rev. William S. Potter, officiating, followed by a committal service in Oak Hill. The court house at Marshall was closed for the afternoon out of respect to her memory."

Miss Barnes was one of the fair young flowers of her home city, and one of the brightest girls in the Battle Creek high school, from which she was graduated with the class of 1909. Her untimely passing has brought sorrow to many and filled the lives of her parents with a grief which time alone may in some measure assuage but may never obliterate.

CALEB WEBB. One of the highly respected citizens of the last century in Battle Creek was the late Caleb Webb, who had been a resident for nearly half a century. Mr. Webb died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. George S. Barnes, on March 16, 1899, in the sixty-ninth year of his life.

Of English birth and ancestry, he was born in Sibford, Oxfordshire, February 26, 1830, and was reared and attained his majority in the old country. Emigrating to America in 1853, he located in the town of Battle Creek the same year. In England he had acquired a thorough knowledge of gardening, and this was his principal business during the active years of his residence at Battle Creek. For a number of years he was also the janitor for the St. Thomas Episcopal church, and later was sexton of Oak Hill cemetery. A quiet, unassuming man, without being conspicuous in business affairs, he was neverthless one of the honored citizens and discharged his responsibilities in a manner deserving of the respect of his own and subsequent generations. His last resting place is in the Hicks cemetery in Pennfield.

Mr. Webb left a family of seven children, three sons and four daughters, namely: Fred H. (see sketch elsewhere) Earnest D., Horace A., Mrs. E. D. Sutton, Mrs. M. S. Hicks, Mrs. George S. Barnes, and Mrs. J. O. Barden.

ALVARES E. HOWELL. Ranking high among the more busy and prosperous citizens of Homer is Alvares E. Howell, one of the most intelligent and skillful veterinary surgeons of Calhoun county, and an agriculturist of experience and prominence. A native of this county, he was born, April 6, 1838, in Albion township, where his father, Hiram Howell, settled in territorial days. His grandparents, Jacob and Jane Howell, were born, reared and married in New Jersey, but later moved to New York, and there resided the remainder of their lives.

Born and bred in Montezuma, New York, Hiram Howell served for two years in the War of 1812, enlisting when young, and was wounded in a skirmish. In 1834, desirous of making a permanent home for himself and family, he journeyed to Michigan, settling in Calhoun county, which was then a heavily wooded country. His total capital consisted of seventeen dollars and fifty cents in cash, a small sum on which to begin life in a new and strange land. Nothing daunted, however, he managed to secure title to eighty acres of government land in Albion township, and by dint of persevering labor met with success in improving his property. He subsequently bought more land in the same township, in course of time becoming a prosperous agriculturist, and a man of influence. On

Hosted by Google

retiring from active pursuits, he moved to Albion, and there spent his declining years. He was a Democrat in politics, and held various township offices, and was also a prominent member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons. He married Lucy Downing, who was born in New Jersey, where her father, John Downing, spent his entire life, having been a farmer by occupation. They reared seven children, of whom three are now living, Alvares E. having been the sixth child in succession of birth. Mrs. Hiram Howell was a true Christian, and a faithful member of the Baptist church.

As a boy and youth Alvares E. Howell attended the district schools, in the meantime obtaining a thorough knowledge of the different branches of agriculture. Leaving home at the age of twenty-three years, he took a full course of study at the Toronto Veterinary College, and has since followed his profession most successfully in Homer, where he has built up a very extensive practice, his skill as a veterinary surgeon being widely known and highly appreciated. Mr. Howell is likewise successfully employed in agricultural pursuits, having a finely improved and productive farm of two hundred and thirty-four acres, which he is managing along scientific and systematic lines. For several years he made a specialty of breeding horses, raising thoroughbred Hambletonian stock, and for seven years he drove horses on the track, winning an excellent reputation as a skilful driver.

Mr. Howell married, November 6, 1861, Josephine Pixley, a daughter of Ebenezer Pixley, who came from New York to Calhoun county in 1859, and spent his remaining days on a farm in Albion township. Mr. and Mrs. Howell are both valued and trustworthy members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and contribute liberally towards its support. Fraternally Mr. Howell is a member of Humanity Lodge, No. 29, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, and politically he is identified with the Prohibitionists.

ALLISON J. FLINT. A man of scholarly attainments and much force of character, Allison J. Flint, superintendent of the public schools of Homer, is prominent in educational circles, and especially well known among the young men and boys of the county, having been instrumental in the organization of the Young Men's Christian Association in Calhoun county, and being scoutmaster of the Boy Scouts, and athletic coach of the high school. He was born, July 22, 1878, in Clarendon township, Calhoun county, a son of Samuel A. Flint. He is of substantial New England ancestry, and of honored pioneer stock, his grandfather, Aseryl Flint, having migrated from Vermont to Michigan in territorial days, and being here engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, in 1856. His grandmother, Salome Flint, died in 1899, aged ninety years.

Samuel A. Flint, who was born in Vermont in 1832, came with his parents to Clarendon township, Calhoun county, Michigan, in 1838, and was there reared to a sturdy manhood. After his marriage he bought the farm of his father-in-law, the old Cooper homestead of one hundred and fifty acres, and continued a tiller of the soil. He served as a soldier in the Civil war, belonging to Company I, Ninth Michigan Volunteer Infantry. A man of far more than average intelligence and ability, he filled various public offices of trust and responsibility, having been township supervisor for twenty years, and notary public for a long time. He married Laura Diantha Cooper, who was born in New York state in 1836, and came to Clarendon township, Calhoun county, Michigan, with her father, William Cooper, in 1838. Four children were born of their union, of whom two are now living, as follows: Albert W., of whom a

Hosted by Google

brief account may be found on another page of this sketch; and Allison J. The father died in October, 1900, and the mother in January, 1912. They were people of marked integrity and sterling worth, and valued members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Having been graduated from the Ypsilanti State Normal school with the class of 1907, Allison J. Flint taught school in Deckerville, Michigan, four years, gaining a good reputation for professional knowledge and ability. In 1911 he accepted his present position as superintendent of the schools in Homer, and has since fulfilled the duties devolving upon him most satisfactorily, being popular with both the parents and the pupils. He still retains the ownership of the old homestead farm on which his parents lived and died, and which was originally owned by his Grandfather Cooper. He devotes his summers to the care of his farm, and throughout the year has charge of a large class in the Sunday school. As scoutmaster Mr. Flint is in realty the physical, mental and character trainer of the boys, his work with them going far toward making them self-reliant, alert, and honest citizens.

Mr. Flint married, April 10, 1901, Jennie B. Hopkins, a successful teacher and a daughter of Alvin and Clara (Andrus) Hopkins, and they are the parents of two children, namely: Falvin Earl, and Don Albert. Mr. and Mrs. Flint are active and prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally Mr. Flint belongs to Humanity Lodge, No. 29, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons.

Albert W. Flint, the oldest child of Samuel A. and Laura D. (Cooper) Flint, and an elder brother of Allison J. Flint, was born in Clarendon township, Calhoun county, Michigan, October 15, 1857, and was educated in the rural schools of his native district. Forming an intimate acquaintance with the different branches of agriculture while young, he found the occupation so congenial and profitable that he has continued a farmer ever since. In 1879 he bought sixty acres of the land included in his present estate, and five years later bought eighty-four acres of adjoining land, and in its improvement has met with assured success. He carries on general farming after the best known methods, and raises considerable stock, including cattle and sheep. He is a Republican in politics, and has served as school inspector, and for the past fourteen years has been justice of the peace.

Mr. Albert W. Flint has been twice married. He married first, in April, 1879, Emma S., daughter of E. A. and Margaret Coggswell, of Calhoun county, and she lived but thirteen weeks after their marriage, passing away in July, 1879. He married second, in September, 1881, Ella E. Smith, a daughter of Eli and Sarah Cook Smith, of Homer, and they have three children, namely: Sarah L. and Lena A., students in the Ypsilanti State Normal school; and Mabel I., a student in the Homer high school.

WILLIAM S. FRUIN. An essentially prominent and influential citizen of Pennfield township, Calhoun county, Michigan, is William S. Fruin, who is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres, the same being eligibly located a few miles distant from the city of Battle Creek on Route No. 11. Mr. Fruin has been incumbent of the office of township clerk and takes an active part in the local councils of the Republican party. He devoted his attention to farming and stock-raising and in those lines of endeavor has been wonderfully successful.

William S. Fruin was born in Berry county, Michigan, January 28, 1876, and he is a son of Richard C. and Ada O. (Shepard) Fruin, the former of whom was born in Eaton county, Michigan. The paternal grandfather of him to whom this sketch is dedicated was Richard C.

Hosted by Google

Fruin, Sr., and he was a native of Milton, England, where he was reared and educated and whence he came to America as a young man, settling in Eaton county, Michigan, where he cleared a farm and continued to reside until his demise. In the maternal line William S. Fruin is a grandson of F. Merritt Shepard, who was born in New York and who came to Michigan in the early '30s, at which time there were only two log stores in Battle Creek. He entered a tract of government land, which he cleared for cultivation and which proved to be an excellent farm; it is now owned by his son, Albert F. Shepard. F. Merritt Shepard was a soldier in the Civil war and he died at the early age of thirty-three years.

After completing the curriculum of the district schools of his native place, William S. Fruin worked on his father's farm until he had reached mature years, when he purchased a farm of ninety acres. He disposed of that estate in 1906 and bought his present estate, which comprises one hundred and twenty acres and which is located in Pennfield township. He raises cattle and hogs, in addition to which he runs a large dairy and raises grain. He is now breeding Guernsey cattle. In politics he is a stalwart Republican and he has ever manifested a deep and sincere interest in community affairs. He was elected township clerk and he served with the utmost efficiency in that capacity for a period of six years. On different occasions he has been a member of the Republican County Committee of Berry county and he is very prominent in the local councils of his party. He is a business man of marked ability and is loyal and public-spirited in his attitude toward all that affects the good of the general welfare.

March 7, 1901, Mr. Fruin was united in marriage to Miss Bertha E. Kent, of Assyria, Berry county, Michigan. She is a daughter of A. G. Kent, who was a very early settler in Berry county and who is a well-to-do farmer. Mr. Kent is a stanch supporter of the Democratic party and for a number of years was postmaster at Assyria. Mr. and Mrs. Fruin have one son, Percy C., who is now a pupil in the district schools of Pennfield township. In a fraternal way Mr. Fruin is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of the Maccabees.

SAMUEL D. STRONG. Possessing not only business qualifications of a high order, but inventive talent and mechanical ability, Samuel D. Strong holds a foremost position among the leading citizens of Homer, Calhoun county, where he has built up an extensive trade as a hardware merchant and furnace manufacturer and dealer. A native of Calhoun county, he was born in Tekonsha township, March 10, 1862, of pioneer ancestry.

His father, the late Chauncey G. Strong, was born, June 10, 1832, in East Bloomfield, New York, and at the age of sixteen years came with his parents to Calhoun county, Michigan, locating in Tekonsha township, where his father purchased from the government a tract of heavily timbered land. He assisted in clearing and improving a homestead, and during his early life was prosperously engaged in tilling the soil. He subsequently opened a hardware store in Tekonsha, where he continued in business until his death, January 6, 1908. He was active in public affairs, being a Republican in politics, and a valued member of the Presbyterian church, to which his wife also belonged. He married Fannie E. Withal, who was born in England, near London, August 8, 1835, and at the age of nine years came with her parents to America, living for three years thereafter in New York, and then coming with the family to Burlington, Michigan. She survived her husband, passing away January 25,

Hosted by Google

1911. Of the eight children born of their union, five are living, Samuel D. being the third child in order of birth.

Brought up on the home farm in Tekonsha township, Samuel D. Strong was educated in the public schools, attending first the school in district number six, the Windfall school. During his earlier years he worked on the farm, but not caring to engage in agricultural pursuiits as an occupation, he served an apprenticeship at the tinner's trade in the store which he now owns, and which, when he was twenty-four years old, he, with his brother, purchased, and for twenty years managed. Utilizing his inventive genius, Mr. Strong devised a well-drilling machine, which he handled outside of his regular business, and he also became an extensive dealer in grain and lumber, an industry which proved quite profitable, and in which he has recently sold his interest. Mr. Strong likewise invented the "Home Ventilator Furnace," which has proved a very popular heater in the modernly built houses of this part of the country, its sales amounting to about a thousand a year, the particular feature of its construction, and the one that recommends it to the public, being its one opening for both the cold air and hot air blast. Mr. Strong is still interested in agriculture, he and his brother owning one hundred and ninety acres of land in Tekonsha township.

Politically Mr. Strong holds high rank in the Democratic party, and has rendered excellent service as a member of the Homer Board of Education, and as an alderman. Fraternally he belongs to Humanity Lodge, No. 29, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons; and of Homer Lodge, No. 88, Knights of Pythias. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr Strong married, September 15, 1884, Ella J Dorris, a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Boyd) Dorris, who spent their last years in Tekonsha. Into their pleasant home circle six children have made their advent, namely: C. Bruce, employed in his father's store; Roswell B., also working in his father's shops; Gerald D., attending Albion College; Arda Mae, a student at the Michigan Agricultural College, in Lansing; Ralph W.; and Margaret Esther.

ANDERSON G. DICKEY. One of the most beautiful country homes in Calhoun county is that of Anderson G. Dickey in Sheridan township, which is surrounded by a landed estate of 205 acres that for fertility and productivity will rival any Michigan homestead of similar size. Its owner is a native son of Calhoun county and his accomplishments stand representative of the large intelligence and enterprise which for the greater part have characterized the efforts of agriculturists of this county and have placed it well to the fore among the wealthiest counties of the state.

Anderson G. Dickey was born in Fredonia township, Calhoun county, Michigan, November 22, 1846, was educated in the district schools and at Albion College, and when he began life for himself he did so as a farmer. To this vocation he has devoted his subsequent career, with the exception of thirteen years which he spent as an electrician in Albion, and the appearance of his fine estate is in itself the most impressive testimony as to Mr. Dickey's attitude toward advanced agricultural methods and as to the character of his business ability. He removed from Albion to his present home in 1900.

Mr. Dickey is of Irish descent on the paternal side and is a scion of an old New England colonial family which originated in this country with John and Margaret Dickey, emigrants from Londonderry, Ireland, who settled in Londonderry, New Hampshire, in 1729. Marsh Dickey, the father of Anderson G., was born in Acworth, New Hampshire, July

Hosted by Google

12, 1808, to Benjamin and Isabella (Marsh) Dickey, both of whom were natives of New Hampshire. When he was fifteen years old he accompanied his parents on their removal to the north part of Vermont, where he continued a member of the parental household until he had attained his majority. The summer of 1830 he spent in Brockport, New York; then in 1831 he came to Michigan and after visiting different parts of the state he finally located in Fredonia township of Calhoun county, arriving there in November, 1840. There he purchased 120 acres, cleared and improved it, but in 1864 disposed of it, together with other lands he had acquired, and bought a farm of 205 acres lying in Sheridan and Marengo townships. This remained his homestead until his death in 1899. In politics he was a Whig and in religious faith he was a Methodist. In 1834 he wedded Susan Smith, who was born in New York and was a daughter of Orrin and Rhoda (Branard) Smith, natives of Connecticut. To this union were born the following children: Sylvester B., now a resident of Kankakee, Illinois; George, who died in infancy; Albert L., deceased, in 1907; Frances, who died at the age of sixteen; and Anderson G,. the subject of this review.

On May 4, 1870, was solemnized the marriage of Anderson G. Dickey and Miss Elizabeth Ott. Mrs. Dickey is the daughter of John and Christina (Emery) Ott, both natives of Northampton county, Pennsylvania, who came to Calhoun county, Michigan, in 1864. They located on a farm in Albion township and became numbered among the most prosperous residents of that community. Mr. Ott was a Republican in his political views and both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Of the nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Ott, seven survive, the parents and five of them reside in Calhoun county, namely: Peter Ott, of Marengo township; Mrs. John Smith, of Marshall township; and Mrs. Catharine Aldridge, Susan Ott and Mrs. Dickey, all residents of Sheridan township. James Ott, a brother, was a soldier in the Civil war and now resides in Buffalo, New York.

Mr. Dickey is a Republican in political views and both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JOHN HELMER was for many years a leading and influential citizen of Battle Creek and his activity in business affairs, his co-operation in public interests and his zealous support of all objects that he believed would contribute to the material, social or moral improvement of the community kept him in the foremost rank of those to whom the city owes its development and present position as one of the leading metropolitan centers of Michigan. His life was characterized by upright, honorable principles and it also exemplified the truth of the Emersonian philosophy that "the way to win a friend is to be one." His genial, kindly manner won him the high regard and good will of all with whom he came in contact and thus his death was uniformly mourned throughout Battle Creek and the surrounding district. Mr. Helmer was pioneer druggist in this city, where he resided for a period of about sixty years.

A native of New York, John Helmer was born August 29, 1836, in Otsego county, that state. He was summoned to the life eternal at Battle Creek, April 22, 1911. His father was Philip Helmer, Jr., and his mother was Sarah (Woodburn) Helmer, the former of whom died in August, 1844, and the latter of whom passed away in September, 1844. There were three children in the Helmer family, namely, Mrs. David Young, now deceased; Andrew, who resides on the old homestead farm in Battle Creek township; and John, the immediate subject of this review. John Helmer came to Calhoun county with his parents in 1844, at which time he was a lad of but eight years of age. After the death of

Hosted by Google

his parents he resided with his brother Andrew, who reared him to maturity. He was educated in the district schools of Battle Creek township and he removed with his brother Andrew to Galesburg, in 1854. They returned to this county in 1856 and two years later Mr. Helmer, of this notice, began to clerk in Mr. Andrus' drug store at Battle Creek, subsequently becoming a partner in the drug business, which was known under the firm name of Andrus & Helmer. In 1866 Mr. Helmer purchased the site where the present drug store is located, that is, the Helmer Block, at No. 9 East Main street. The firm then became that of Amberg & Helmer and a short time later this partnership was dissolved, Mr. Amberg opening a drug store of his own in another section of the city. Thereafter Mr. Helmer continued to conduct his business alone for a time but eventually admitted Mr. Martin H. Goodale as a partner. This was in 1909 and the concern has since been known as the Helmer-Goodale Company.

Mr. Helmer was the oldest business man in Battle Creek at the time of his death and he had occupied his present store for a period of forty years. He was a shrewd business man and was possessed of remarkable foresight. In earlier years he manifested a keen interest in business and social affairs, but after the death of his wife he gradually dropped all other affairs in order to devote his entire attention to his extensive business interests. In politics he was a stalwart supporter of the principles and policies for which the Republican party stands sponsor and he was affiliated with a number of representative fraternal organization at Battle Creek. His business is now owned and controlled by William Helmer, a nephew. At the time of his demise, Mr. Helmer was the owner of the Helmer Block, at No. 9 East Main street, and he also owned a tract of four hundred acres of land in Battle Creek and Bedford townships. His death occurred April 22, 1911, and the funeral was held at the First Presbyterian church, the Rev. William S. Potter officiating. His remains lie in Oak Hill cemetery. Mr. Helmer is survived by one brother, Andrew Helmer; three nephews: William Helmer, Edward Young and Myron Young; and two nieces: Mrs. Nathaniel Huyler and Mrs. Mattie Stillson.

At Battle Creek, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Helmer to Miss Mattie Beach, who was born and reared in New York State, a daughter of Emmett Beach. Mr. and Mrs. Helmer had no children. Mrs. Helmer passed away in Battle Creek.

Mr. Helmer was a man of great philanthropy but there was a modesty and lack of all ostentation in his work as a benefactor. In this day, when disinterested citizenship is all too rare a jewel, it is helpful to reflect upon a course of high-minded patriotism such as that of Mr. Helmer. His deep sympathy and innate kindliness of spirit make his memory an enduring monument more ineffaceable than polished marble or burnished bronze. "To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die."

ANDREW HELMER. After many years spent in cultivating the soil in any one vicinity, the average Michigan farmer is loath to turn over his life work to other hands, but on coming to the realization that the time has come for him to retire from active pursuits and settle down to the enjoyment that his years of toil have earned for him, he invariably moves to the nearest town or village and there becomes one of its best citizens. Andrew Helmer, a well known and highly esteemed, retired farmer of Battle Creek, was born in the town of Cherry Valley, Otsego county, New York, June 29, 1827, and is a son of Philip and Sarah (Woodman) Helmer. Mr. Helmer's parents were both natives

Hosted by Google

of the Empire State, and soon after the birth of Andrew they located in the town of Oneonta, where the father was engaged in farming until 1844, then making preparations to come West. By wagon he traveled to Utica, New York, where passage was taken on a canal boat on the Erie Canal, and the journey to Buffalo accomplished without incident. From Buffalo the trip was made to Detroit via lake vessel, and from Detroit to Battle Creek was made by wagon. There were seven people in the party beside Mr. and Mrs. Helmer and their two sons and one daughter. They started on May 20th and reached Battle Creek, June 7th, settling on the prairie and making their residence in a log cabin in pioneer style. The mother did not live long after coming here, passing away in August, 1844, and in September of the same year the father died and both were buried in the Young Cemetery. In politics, Mr. Helmer was a Democrat. He had had time to accumulate only eighty acres of land, and soon after his death the family separated, Andrew, then a lad of seventeen years, beginning to work by the month and as a farm hand, and was thus employed for seven years. Starting at a salary of eight dollars a month, his wages were gradually increased until he was receiving fourteen dollars per month, and, being industrious and economical, soon saved enough to purchase land on his own account. In 1849 he became the owner of eighty acres on section 10, Battle Creek township, this being all covered with timber which it was necessary for him to clear before he could begin planting. He improved forty acres of this land and then sold it. In 1854 he was married to Miss Marcia L. Andrus, who was born in Binghamton, New York, in 1834, and was brought to Michigan by her parents in September, 1835. The young couple began their wedded life in the township of Comstock, in Kalamazoo county, where Mr. Helmer engaged in the improvement of a farm of 180 acres for two years. He then sold out and returned to Calhoun county, locating in Battle Creek township, where he bought 160 acres of land located on the southeast quarter of section nine. Much of it was improved, and he made many more improvements and resided there until 1890. In that year he removed to the place where he now resides with his son, this farm being located on section 4, Battle Creek township, devoted to general farming, fruit raising and gardening, and a specialty being made in the cultivation of celery.

Mr. and Mrs. Helmer have five children: Harriet, the eldest, became the wife of William Graham, of Battle Creek township, and died leaving one daughter, Iva, who makes her home with her maternal grandfather; Frank, the second in order of birth, died in childhood; William A., a resident of Battle Creek township; Nellie A. is the wife of Vannatin B. Huyler of Emmett township and has two children, Marcia and John; and Mattie is the wife of Fred C. Stillson, of Battle Creek, and has one child, Donald R. In his political proclivities, Mr. Helmer is a stanch and unwavering Democrat, and has served six times as township supervisor of Battle Creek. The confidence in which he is held and the strong popularity that is his have been shown by the fact that although he lives in a strong Republican district, yet he has never been defeated when nominated as a candidate for any political position. Mr. Helmer is an excellent example of the self-made man. Successful in business affairs, prominent politically, popular among a wide circle of friends, beloved by his family, he is indeed a man to be envied, and when it is remembered that it was a poor boy with but limited educational advantages who attained his present position, some idea may be gained of what he has accomplished, and a proper amount of credit be given him.

Hosted by Google

WILLIAM ANDRUS. In the death of William Andrus, who passed away May 4, 1912, at Canton, Ohio, the city of Battle Creek, Michigan, suffered a distinct loss, as for years he had been an important factor in promoting and developing its various interests and through precept and example encouraging others to emulate his persistent industry. Mr. Andrus was born at Binghamton, New York, August 9, 1826, and his ancestors can be traced back to John and Mary Andrews, as the name was spelled, who were early settlers of New England when this country was still numbered among the colonial possessions of Great Britain. The line of descent is traced down through Daniel, Joseph and Joseph Andrews, Jr., the latter a native of Farmington, Connecticut, and the father of Ebenezer Andrews, who wedded Mary Beckwith. They were the great-grandparents of William Andrus. Levi Andrus, the grandfather, was born in Southington, Connecticut, and wedded Mary Judd. Among their children was Giles Andrus, who was born in Oquaga, New York, in 1780, and was reared in Binghamton, New York. There he wedded Miss Betsy Shaw, and there their children were born. Giles Andrus followed carpentering and joining, and built some of the finest homes in Binghamton in his day. In the spring of 1835 he went West, in company with his son Charles, going by canal from Oswego, New York, to Buffalo, thence by lake to Detroit, and from there followed the territorial trail to the site of the present city of Battle Creek, which was then the town of Milton and contained only a few log houses but no postoffice, it being necessary to go to Verona for mail. Giles Andrus selected a location on Goguac Prairie, where he purchased farms for himself and three sons. Only the homestead building on the place was a little log cabin. He made some improvements preparatory to receiving his wife and children, who joined him in August of the same year. He was not long permitted, however, to enjoy his pioneer home, for he died in November, 1838, aged fifty-eight years. He was a member of the Episcopal Church, and one of the first of that denomination to locate in this section. He left a widow and eight children and the mother survived for only four years and died January 14, 1842. The children were: Henry; Charles; George; William and James, who died in New Orleans, while on his way home after serving as a soldier during the Mexican War; Elizabeth, who became the wife of David Smith; Mary; and Marcia, the wife of Andrew Helmer, and all are now deceased except Mrs. Helmer.

William Andrus was educated in the Binghamton schools of New York, and afterwards the district schools of the vicinity of his home on Goguac Prairie. He remained at home until he was seventeen years of age, at which time he came to what was then the village of Battle Creek and here obtained employment and attended a private school for a year. In 1845 he accepted a position in a drug store owned by Allen T. Havens, who died in 1852, when Mr. Andrus purchased the stock and succeeded his former employer. This was the first and largest drug store here, and was located at No. 6 East Main street. He continued the business successfully and in 1867 built the Andrus Block, at Nos. 6 and 8 East Main street, one of the first three-story substantial brick blocks in Battle Creek. He conducted a drug store there until he sold out the business in 1872 to Grandine & Hinman, after which he became an important factor in manufacturing circles of this city. He was instrumental in establishing a number of manufacturing concerns in Battle Creek, including the Battle Creek Machinery Company, now known as the American Steam Pump Company and was its president for some time. He was connected with this concern for some fourteen or fifteen years. In the meantime, he assisted in reorganizing

Hosted by Google

the Advance Thresher Company, now the Rumely Company, here, and during the second year of its existence served as its president. During the nineties he sold out his interest in this company and from that time until his death he gave his attention to personal investments and to looking after his own estates and also supervising others placed in his care. He erected many residences and numerous business blocks here, which he later sold. His residence stood from 1860 to 1903 on the present site of the postoffice. Mr. Andrus was one of the organizers and one of the first directors of the Old National Bank.

Mr. Andrus was married June 2, 1852, to Miss Frances L. McCamly, daughter of Samuel W. and Janet McCamly, but she died June 26, 1854. On January 27, 1858, he married Nellie Grandine, daughter of Edgar and Harriet Grandine of Waterford, New York, and she died in December, 1876, at Atlanta, Georgia, where she and her husband had gone in the hope that she might recover her failing health. She belonged to the Episcopal church, and was very active in its various works. For many years Mr. Andrus served as one of the vestrymen of St. Thomas Episcopal Church of Battle Creek, but in 1902 resigned and refused re-election, as he was to leave the city. He was chairman of the building committee during the erection of the church and contributed most liberally to the fund. Fraternally, Mr. Andrus was connected with Battle Creek Lodge No. 12, F. & A. M., in which he was a past master; Battle Creek Chapter No. 19, R. A. M., Zabud Council No. 9, R. & S. M., of which he was thrice illustrious master and Battle Creek Commandery No. 33, K. T. In politics he was a Democrat, but never was an aspirant for public office, his business and social duties satisfying his ambitions. Mr. Andrus was buried in Battle Creek with Masonic honors, and a large concourse of people followed to the grave all that was mortal of a man, who, throughout his life had so conducted his affairs as to win and retain the unqualified esteem and confidence of all with whom he came into contact.

ARTHUR E. LEACH. Having his farm in Homer township almost entirely under cultivation, Arthur E. Leach is deserving of the position he has attained among the agriculturists of Calhoun county. A son of the late Elihu H. Leach, he was born, August 7, 1869, on the farm adjoining the one which he now owns and occupies. He is of honored pioneer stock, his grandparents having migrated from New York state to Michigan in the spring of 1834, taking up wild land in Homer township, where he cleared a farm from the wilderness, and otherwise improved it.

Elihu H. Leach was born in Wayne county, New York, July 22, 1823, and as a lad of eleven years came with his parents to Calhoun county, Michigan, where, as soon as strong enough to wield an axe, he assisted the pioneer task of felling the giant progeny of the forest, and placing the land under cultivation. Subsequently serving an apprenticeship at the trade of harness maker, he embarked, in 1855, in business on his own account, engaging in the manufacture of harnesses in the village of Homer, and also opening a branch shop in Jonesville. Selling out his shops in 1868, he purchased from Henry Churchill the farm now owned by his son Arthur E., and, with the exception of the years of 1884 and 1885, which he spent in Nebraska, was there successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death. He was very prominent in Masonic circles, having been a charter member of Humanity Lodge, No. 29, Free and Accepted Order of Masons, with which he was identified for upwards of forty years, and which he served as

Hosted by Google

master. He was a Democrat in politics, and, with his good wife, belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church.

Elihu H. Leach was first married, October 6, 1847, to Mary J. Talmage, who was born in New York state, March 27, 1829, and died in Calhoun county, Michigan, October 5, 1850. He married second, June 16, 1852, Elizabeth Eslow, who was born in New York state in 1830, and died in Calhoun county, Michigan. Of the six children born of their union, three are living, Arthur E. being the youngest child of the family.

Acquiring a practical education in his youthful days in Homer township, at the Agnew school house, Arthur E. Leach subsequently acquired skill in breaking horses, and for a time followed that business. He afterwards learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed steadily for four years, and then took charge of the parental homestead. On the death of his father, Mr. Leach bought the interests of the remaining heirs in the estate, and has since been engaged in general farming.

Mr. Leach married, October 19, 1892, May Chamberlain, daughter of Henry and Deborah (Riblet) Chamberlain, who spent the later years of their lives on a farm in Hillsdale county, where Mr. Chamberlain, who learned the tinner's trade when young, was a pioneer farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Leach have two children, namely: Herbert Elihu and Louisa Delia. Politically Mr. Leach is a sound Democrat. Religiously, both Mr. and Mrs. Leach are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

ABRAHAM A. GARLINGHOUSE. A prominent and prosperous business man of Calhoun county, Abraham A. Garlinghouse is identified with one of the leading industries of Homer, being proprietor of the large marble and granite works of that place. A son of the late Benjamin Garlinghouse, he was born in Grant county, Indiana, January 15, 1839. John Garlinghouse, his paternal grandfather, was born in New York state, and his father, Joseph Garlinghouse, the great grandfather of Abraham A. Garlinghouse, was high sheriff of New York county, New York, when William Morgan, of Batavia, New York, made his exposure of Masonry in 1826, and he arrested Mr. Morgan to keep him from being lynched by the Masons, who charged him with violating his oath, and publishing the secrets of the order. Mr. Morgan was subsequently taken from his home at night, and was never heard from afterward, saith history.

Benjamin Garlinghouse was born near Onondaga, New York, in 1815, and while yet a young man migrated to Ohio. About 1837 he removed with his family to Indiana, where he remained two years. He then returned to Ohio, and after living there awhile again turned his footsteps westward, going to Kansas, where he continued in business as a worker in marble and granite until his death. He married, in 1834, in Ohio. Maria Williams, who was born in that state in 1815, a daughter of Abraham and Catherine Maria Williams, who moved to Ohio from New York, their native state. Six children were born of their marriage, three of whom are now living, in 1912, Abraham A. being the second child of the parental household. The parents were both members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the father was a steadfast Republican in politics. The mother, Catherine Maria Williams was a descendant of Roger Williams.

Having learned the trade of a marble worker in Illinois, Abraham A. Garlinghouse began business on his own account in Topeka, Kansas, where for twelve years he had a large yard, and was extensively patronized. Coming from there to Michigan in 1890, Mr. Garlinghouse

Hosted by Google

began the manufacture of tombstones at Homer, where he has built up a very large and highly remunerative business, his artistic tastes and talents finding expression in enduring monuments of marble and granite. He is now doing an annual business of about $16,000, much of his work being shipped to different parts of Michigan, and to other states.

Mr. Garlinghouse married, in 1850, Agnes A. Rose, a daughter of Cyler Rose, a thriving farmer living near Burlingame, Kansas. She passed to the life beyond, July 21, 1911, leaving three children, namely: Raymond E., in partnership with his father, married June 25, 1884, Nellie L., daughter of Warren and Addie Tompkins of Litchfield, Michigan, and has one daughter, Valeria M., born April 25, 1885, now a teacher in the public schools at Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Leona M., the wife of William Waterman, now living at St. Joseph, Michigan, has one daughter, Jessie E., wife of Willis Williams, of St. Joseph; Charley A., working for his father, married September 20, 1892, Louise, daughter of James and Helen Hess of Homer and has two children, Bryan H., born February 27, 1897, and Viola L., born March 13, 1901. Abraham A. Garlinghouse is a supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, and in addition to having served as township clerk and assessor has been a member of the city council of Homer four terms. He married again June 29, 1912, Mrs. Villa Brooks of Union City becoming his wife. He is a member of the Episcopal church, to which his wife also belongs.

HON. GEORGE WILLARD. If the city of Battle Creek had wished to express through the character of one citizen its best ideals of thought and action during the second half of the nineteenth century, no one man could have represented them so broadly and fully as the late George Willard. An educator, an editor, a speaker and leader in public affairs, a man of many interests and accomplishments, he was without a doubt a peer of any of his contemporaries in the state.

Hon. George Willard was born in Bolton, Chittenden county, Vermont, March 20, 1824, and died at his home in Battle Creek, March 26, 1901, aged seventy-seven years. Like many of the early settlers of southern Michigan, the Willards were of old New England families dating back into colonial times. Simon Willard, the founder of the American branch, was born in England in 1607, emigrated to Massachusetts in 1634, and the following year joined the Rev. Bullock in establishing the colony of Concord. From 1636 to 1652 he successively represented that colony in the general court of the Massachusetts colony, and then served as governor's assistant up to 1676. He explored the headwaters of the Merrimac, and was one of the commissioners to settle the boundary line dispute between New Hampshire and Massachusetts, the stone boundary mark still bearing his initials. During King Philip's war he commanded the Middlesex county militia, and led a force to the relief of Deerfield.

From this remarkable figure in old colonial days many generations have traced their descent. One of his sons, Major Samuel, was a pastor of Old South church in Boston and acting president of Harvard College, and also a contributor to the religious literature of the period. Another descendant at a later date was president of Harvard, and another was commander of Fort Dummer, the first settlement in Vermont. Oliver Willard, great-grandfather of George Willard, received from the colony of New York a patent to Hartland township, and first settled there.

The parents of the late Mr. Willard were Allen and Eliza (Barron) Willard. Allen Willard was born at Hartland, Vermont, February 10,

Hosted by Google



George Willard.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

1794, and in 1816 entered Dartmouth College, where one of his mates was Rufus Choate. In the disturbed conditions incident to the epoch-making Dartmouth College case, during his junior year he left college and located at Bolton, Vermont, and engaged in teaching and later in farming, until 1836, when he came to Michigan and settled on the place at Goguac lake which for three quarters of a century has been the Willard homestead. Allen Willard had an interesting character. He was independent in forming his views of men and measures. At the first nomination of Andrew Jackson for the presidency he was one of the three men in his Vermont town who cast their votes for him. Later, after Jackson's executive interference with the United States Bank, he left the Democratic party, became a Whig. He was a lover of literature, especially the Greek and Latin, which he continued to read until the last years of his life. His death occurred February 12, 1876, at the age of eighty-two. His wife was a descendant of one of the early Irish families that settled in New England. Their two children were George and Charles Willard.

George Willard lived in southern Michigan from the age of twelve years until his death, and witnessed practically the entire period of development from pioneer conditions to the modern twentieth century. Owing to his father's scholarship and his own ardent desire for learning—an intellectual curiosity which all the years of his long life never satiated—the crude school facilities of the new county did not prevent him from acquiring what would still be called a liberal education. The Three R's he had mastered by the time he was eighty years old, and at fourteen he read the gospels in the original Greek and was also familiar with Homer. At sixteen he was teaching school at LeRoy, and at the age of twenty was graduated from Kalamazoo College. The succeeding years he spent in teaching and preparing himself for the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal church, to which he was ordained in 1848.

With that event he began the career of varied activity and accomplishment which continued for more than half a century. He was successively rector of churches in Coldwater, Battle Creek and Kalamazoo, until 1862, when, his convictions of duty having undergone a change so that he felt he could no longer continue in the discharge of the priestly office, he resigned and soon afterward accepted the chair of Latin in Kalamazoo College. Already he had been drawn into the current of discussion and affairs that steadily flowed toward the crisis of war. In 1855, during the excitement in regard to the Kansas-Nebraska bill, he wrote a letter to Hon. William H. Seward on the subject, receiving a reply from which the following extract is of interest: "Truth in every department of human knowledge and action, is entitled to open, free confession and vindication by all classes of society; and I know of no ground upon which any man anywhere, much less any man in a republic, can suppress his convictions or refrain from giving his support to the truth on any great and vital question."

In 1856 Mr. Willard became a member of the state board of education, on which he served six years. His influence and exertions contributed largely to the establishment of the State Agricultural College at Lansing, which opened in 1857, and forty years later, as the only surviving member of the board, he delivered the anniversary address at the college. In 1863 he was elected regent of the University of Michigan. It was he who drew up the resolution opening the university to women, and this action was characteristic of his advanced position in many public affairs. He also strongly advocated the establishment of a chair of homeopathy in the medical department, and he had much

Hosted by Google

to do with securing the services of President Angell for the university.

From this time forward for many years his public services were almost constant. He was never a politician in the usual sense of the word, for his public service was always disinterested and directed by his convictions and his sense of duty. Elected in 1866 to the legislature, he became chairman of the house committee on education and the following year was appointed to the same position in the constitutional convention, of which he was also a member. In the state Republican convention of 1868 he was chairman of the committee on resolutions. In 1872 he was appointed a member of the centennial board of finance, and in the same year was a delegate at large to the national convention at Philadelphia, in which convention he was a member of the committee on rules.

The same year having been nominated by this district for Congress, he was elected by the unprecedented majority of 7,547. He was a member of the committees on civil service and on coinage, weights and measures, and during his second term was a member of these committees and also of the committee on the District of Columbia. After the famous contested presidential election of 1876 he was a member of the committee to provide a method of counting the electoral vote, and he and Mr. Springer were the sub-committee which later compiled the history of the electoral count. With Senator Thurman of Ohio, he was made a member of the United States Monetary Commission in 1877, and in that connection thoroughly studied the silver question, attending all meetings of the committee both in Washington and New York.

While in Congress Mr. Willard labored zealously for the adjustment of sectional difficulties, and advocated a speedy settlement of the southern question on the basis of justice and charity. From almost the beginning of his first term he attracted notice as a speaker who commanded a vast array of specific facts and relied on their logical presentation more than on the ordinary forensic arts. His speeches on the subject of cheap transportation, in opposition to the Force bill, and advocacy of a popular government, and on a bill to regulate the presidential vote, gave him a national reputation, and the last mentioned speech was published in all the leading papers of both parties. Probably no representative in Congress at the time worked harder or more intelligently on the matters within the scope of his duties. While he looked after the material interests of his own district, he never forgot that his responsibilities were of national character.

In 1868 he purchased the *Battle Creek Journal,* and four years later established the daily issue of this paper, of which he continued as editor and proprietor up to the date of his death. The qualities and attainments of his mind and character made him an ideal editor. The paper was dominated by his personality, and in this respect was typical of the best in what is now called the old-style journalism, the most notable example of which was Greeley's *New York Tribune.* Mr. Willard's vast and well digested information, his broad range of reading in many languages, his extended experience with men and affairs, and the breadth of his sympathies, thoroughly pervaded his editorials and gave them a lofty dignity and judicious independence that are rarely found in the utterances of the neo-journalism.

A great reader, a student of both ancient and modern history, a fine linguist who possessed a familiar acquaintance with German, French, Italian, Spanish, Latin and Greek, Mr. Willard's scholarship, supplementing fine natural gifts, made him one of the foremost among the throng of brilliant men of which Michigan is so justly proud. Although

Hosted by Google

advanced in years he had always possessed good health, and up to his last illness retained fully the mental qualities of his vigorous manhood. He was of medium height, of erect, robust figure, a fine head, blue eyes and clear-cut intellectual features. His manner was dignified, and in conversation he was both entertaining and instructive. In all that tended to the development and progress of Battle Creek he took a deep interest, and contributed largely, by voice and pen and in other ways, to its prosperity. A man of strictest integrity, with the courage of his convictions, a gentleman in the truest sense of the word, he deserved the high regard and esteem in which he was held. The tributes to his career, spoken by representative citizens in various spheres of life at the memorial services following his death, were of rare sincerity and spontaneity, and the subjects taken by the different speakers indicate the great range of Mr. Willard's activities and influence. As a leader in religious thought, as an editor and competitor, what he stood for in the city, as a political leader, as senior warden of St. Thomas church, and chief of all, his fine manhood and character—from each of these viewpoints it was possible to find instruction and inspiration in his past life.

Mr. Willard always remained prominent in the church in whose service his career began, and was a delegate to its triennial conventions in 1856, 1886, 1889, 1892, and 1898. On April 10, 1844, he married Miss Emily Harris, daughter of Rev. John Harris, of Battle Creek. They were the parents of four children: Frances A., died July 6th 1912, the widow of Charles D. Brewer of Battle Creek; Charles, who died in childhood; Lillie E., wife of E. W. Moore, who was former business manager of the Journal and is now a resident of Benton Harbor; and George B., whose sketch is given below. Mrs. Brewer was educated at Battle Creek and Kalamazoo, and Mrs. Moore received most of her education in Ypsilanti. Mrs. Emily Willard, mother of these children, died in 1885. In 1887 Mr. Willard married Mrs. Elizabeth A. Willard, who survived him.

GEORGE B. WILLARD. The only surviving son of the late George Willard is Mr. George B. Willard, who for many years has been actively identified with the business and civic affairs of Battle Creek, and particularly in newspaper work has supplemented and continued his father's worthy activities.

Born in this city, June 11, 1858, Mr. Willard attended the local schools and the business college, and in the Journal office gained the initial experiences which determined his career. During his first years in the office he became familiar with the printing trade and all the mechanical industry connected with printing, and a natural talent and thorough training equipped him for the editorial management. During the many years of his connection with the Journal he was recognized as one of the ablest all-around newspaper men in southern Michigan. His editorial control kept the Journal upon a high plane—it was progressive without being sensational, and was a definite influence in the life of the community. Associated with his brother-in-law, Hon. E. W. Moore, he continued the Journal after his father's death until April, 1906, when he sold his interests and retired from newspaper work.

He is owner of a beautiful farm of two hundred acres at Goguac lake, which has already been mentioned as the original Willard homestead, having been settled by his grandfather Allen Willard. From him it descended to Charles Willard, uncle of George B., and then to the latter. Mr. Willard has his summer home there, and is the owner of

Hosted by Google

considerable city property, including the home at 91 Fountain street. Since leaving the newspaper work, he has been chiefly interested in looking after this property. He and his family usually spend the winter either in California or the south.

Those movements which have been undertaken for solid prosperity and advancement of the city have always found in Mr. Willard a willing contributor and worker. As the representative of one of the oldest and most esteemed names of this vicinity, he has quietly but effectively exercised his influence many times for the well ordered progress of his city. A lifelong Republican, he has been a delegate to many conventions, but has always declined nominations for office. He is affiliated with the Elks and the Knights of Pythias lodges in Battle Creek, is a member of the Athelstan Club, and he and his family attend and support, though not members, the Independent Congregational church.

George B. Willard was married in the home where he still resides, June 16, 1880, to Miss Hattie Henrietta Campbell. Her father, James C. Campbell, who died many years ago, was a well known early citizen of Battle Creek. Her mother is now the wife of William H. Flagg, and they also reside at the Fountain street home.

William H. Flagg has been identified with Battle Creek and vicinity for many years. During the Civil war he was a member of the Second Michigan Infantry for three years and three months, with a record of service including some of the great engagements of the war. As a youth he learned the blacksmith trade, at which he became expert. For several years he was with the Upton Manufacturing Works and later for a number of years with the Nichols & Shepard Company. In 1885, under Mayor F. M. Rathbun's appointment, he became chief of police, and his term set a high mark for the equitable enforcement of law and order. In 1886 H. C. Hall appointed him street commissioner and assistant marshal, an office he held for three years. For several years past he has been occupied with the active management of the Willard farm on Goguac lake.

Charles Willard. In the death of Charles Willard on January 31, 1897, Battle Creek and this vicinity lost a remarkable citizen and benefactor. Through a long business career he acquired great wealth, but was never married and always retained the simple tastes which require so little money to satisfy. In this way he became the instrument for the diversion and application of a large private fortune to the benefit of the community, and so wisely were his benefactions bestowed that for generations they will continue to aid the careers of young men and women and increase the spread of culture throughout this vicinity. To Battle Creek probably the best known of his contributions is represented in the Charles Willard Library building, but this was only one of the uses to which his fortune was directed.

Charles Willard was the younger son of Allen Willard and the brother of the late George Willard, the interesting early history of the Willard family being contained in previous sketches. Charles Willard was born at Bolton, Chittenden county, Vermont, April 24, 1827, being three years younger than his brother George. The family arrived at Battle Creek on July 8, 1836, having been two weeks coming from Detroit with ox teams, and the journey from Vermont by way of the Erie canal having taken a month. Like his brother George he received most of his early education from his talented and classically learned father. But though possessed of splendid judgment and intellectual powers, he chose a cereer in the less conspicuous fields of endeavor and was little known in politics and other public activities. Through his youth

Hosted by Google

and mature years he continued to reside on the farm beside Lake Goguac where his father had located about 1841 or 1842. By honest industry, good judgment and unwavering perseverance he won prosperity as a farmer. Then for many years he was recognized as a capitalist of secure standing and one whose property was obtained by means approved both in law and morals.

Farming and the loaning of the accumulations therefrom comprised his chief business until he became interested in the Advance Thresher Company, during the years when the struggle was being made to lay the foundations for what has proved its subsequent splendid prosperity. Manufacturing had appealed to him not so much as a source of profit, but because it would afford employment to so many more people than the ordinary pursuits of an agricultural community, and would thus prove of permanent benefit to his home city. For the success of this company he, with others, was early pledged to the extent of more than a million dollars, and the failure of the enterprise would have meant the loss of all he possessed for his declining years. Yet he had the strongest confidence in the company and never faltered, and the outcome not only justified his expectations of giving this city a great industrial institution, but also added immensely to his own wealth. Aside from private bequests to his family, at the time of his death his public and religious benefactions amounted to fully $271,000. For the Young Men's Christian Association, $37,500; for the Charles Willard Library building, $37,500; to endow a professorship of Latin and literature in the Kalamazoo College, $30,000; the State Baptist Association a total of upwards of $40,000; the poor students fund of the Michigan College of upwards of $40,000; a public park to the city of Battle Creek worth $20,000. These with others would make his gifts nearly a quarter of a million dollars.

His father and mother were Baptist. While he was not a member of the church, the church had great influence with him—and he was always one of the main contributors to its support during his life and he did not forget it in the distribution of his property. While not a member of any church he took great interest in the progress and care of the Baptist Society. His father's ways and religion was his—and had great influence with him. Sixteen acres of oak woods bordering on Goguac lake he deeded before his death as a public park for the benefit of the people of Battle Creek. For the purchase of grounds and the erection of a building he bequeathed $36,750 to the Young Men's Christian Association of Battle Creek.

The bequest in 1875 of ten thousand dollars by the late Henry B. Denman for the support of a public school library was always appreciated by Mr. Willard, and the thought doubtless appealed to him that no more useful bequest could be made than the furnishing of a proper home for the books and a convenient place where the public could have free access to them. This was the source of his gift of $36,750 for the Charles Willard Library Building, which was opened to the public in April, 1905, and has ever since been one of the most popular institutions of this city. Mr. Denman and Mr. Willard, both early promoters of the welfare of Battle Creek, left legacies of lasting usefulness to the public, and neither would ask a better acknowledgement of their deeds than that this beautiful library should be constantly used by the people of the city in the betterment of their minds and culture of their understandings.

Though not college bred, Mr. Willard possessed the broad understanding and culture that result from thorough study of the best in literature and current affairs. He was a deep thinker, well read in the

Hosted by Google

world's history, and his retentive memory stored up information that the ordinary man seldom retains. He had an excellent command of language, and few citizens could talk more entertainingly of the old days in Calhoun county or on the larger topics of knowledge. He never read light or trashy literature, and he thoroughly appreciated the value of sound and solid education for young people, hence his benefactions to education. His career of quiet but successful business and the sturdy traits of his character deserve to be always associated with the institutions which have prospered or have become possible through his life.

EGBERT E. PAGE. It has been given this well known citizen of Calhoun county to achieve marked success and to have become one of the essentially representative business men of his native city of Marshall, where he is secretary and treasurer of the Page Brothers Buggy Company, one of the extensive, substantial and important industrial concerns of the county and one that has done much to further the commercial and civic progress and prosperity of the city in which its fine manufactory is established.

Egbert E. Page has well upheld the prestige of a name that has been closely and worthily identified with the history of Calhoun county for more than half a century. He was born in Marshall, the judicial center of the county, on the 7th of December, 1859, and is a son of William and Amelia (Dean) Page. William Page was born at Newark, the capital of Licking county, Ohio, in 1813, and was a son of Daniel Page, who was one of the sterling pioneers of the old Buckeye state and whose father was a native of England. William Page was reared and educated in Ohio and there learned the carpenter's trade. As a young man he came to Calhoun county, Michigan, and here he became a successful contractor and builder. He continued to maintain his home in the city of Marshall until his death, which occurred in 1876, and he ever commanded secure place in popular confidence and esteem, the while he did much to advance the development and progress of his home city and county. He was a Republican in his political proclivities and both he and his wife held membership in the Methodist church, in the activities of which they took a deep interest. They became the parents of three sons and they are all interested principals in the Page Brothers Buggy Company, of which the eldest son, William L., is president, and in which Lucius F., is an active executive. Mrs. Amelia (Dean) Page, the devoted wife and mother, was a woman of most gracious personality and was held in affectionate regard by all who came within the compass of her gentle influence. She was born in the state of New York, on the 20th of January, 1825, and was a daughter of Lyman Dean, who established his home in Calhoun county, Michigan, in the pioneer days. Mrs. Page was summoned to the life eternal in the year 1871.

Egbert E. Page is indebted to the public schools of his native city for his early educational discipline, which included the curriculum of the high school. As a young man he was identified with agricultural pursuits for a time and finally he became associated with his brother William L. in the manufacturing of vehicles, the enterprise having been founded in 1869, by William L. Page, who began operations on a modest scale. Egbert E. was admitted to partnership in 1882, and for the purpose of expanding the commercial facilities of the business, which had grown to be one of most substantial order, the present stock company was organized in July, 1890, the co-operation of other representative business men having been enlisted and the business having then been incorporated under the present title of the Page Brothers Buggy Company. Operations are based on a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars,

Hosted by Google

and the original executive corps was as here noted: William L. Page, president; Charles Cronin, vice-president; William Connor, second vice-president; Egbert E. Page, secretary; and John A. Bentley, treasurer. The Page brothers now control the stock of the company, with William L. as president and Egbert E. as secretary and treasurer. The enterprise has been built up to large proportions and the plant of the company is one of modern order, the main building being of brick and sixty by four hundred feet in dimensions. It is three stories in height and is eligibly located on the Michigan Central Railroad. The company manufactures high grade vehicles, with a capacity of five thousand carriages annually, and a specialty is made of car-load lots, the trade of the concern extending into the most diverse sections of the Union, and its unassailable reputation constituting its best commercial asset. In the general industrial chapter of this publication further reference is made to this progressive and representative enterprise.

Besides having been actively concerned with the upbuilding of the large and prosperous business of the Page Brothers Buggy Company, Egbert E. Page has identified himself with other business enterprises in his home city and is known as a loyal, progressive and public-spirited citizen. In politics he accords a staunch allegiance to the Prohibition party, but he is essentially a business man and has had no predilection for the honors or emoluments of public office, though ever ready to lend his influence and tangible aid in the furtherance of measures and enterprises projected for the general good of the community. Both he and his wife are most zealous and valued members of the First Methodist church of Marshall, and he has been a member of its board of trustees for fully a quarter of a century, besides which he served for a number of years as superintendent of its Sunday school. His fine modern residence, at 604 West Prospect street, is one of the most attractive in the city, and is a center of gracious and unostentatious hospitality.

On the 2nd of November, 1881, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Page to Miss Etta Hepner, who was born at Knox, Indiana, and who is a daughter of the late M. T. Hepner, an honored citizen of Knox, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Page became the parents of six children, of whom four are living,—Forest E., identified with the Page Brothers Buggy Company, Ethel M., Pearl E. and Franklin L.

William Gardner. In spite of the handicap of crude tools, poor irrigation and wild, untamed land, the farmers of fifty years ago were able, through their knowledge of agricultural methods and conditions, by hard work and untiring perseverance, to make their farms yield good crops, and the man who kept everlastingly at it was able to amass a competence for his later years. In these days, however, the work is not so hard, nor the success so difficult to gain, for the farmers of today, profiting by the experiences and mistakes of those who have gone before them, and being assisted in their work by the wonderful power machinery of this age, have learned to cultivate their land scientifically, and as a result are making records in the raising of crops that should make those of former years look to their laurels. One of the successful agriculturists of Homer township, Calhoun county, whose good judgment, industry and general training have made him one of the leaders in agricultural work in his section, is William Gardner, the owner of a well-cultivated property of 100 acres. Mr. Gardner is thoroughly conversant with conditions in this part of the county, as he was born on the farm on which he now resides, and with the exception of a few years spent in travel has spent his life here. He was born September 5, 1860, and is a son of Barney A. and Larettie (Stookey) Gardner.

Hosted by Google

Barney A. Gardner, who was affectionately known by his neighbors as "Uncle Barney," was born in New Jersey, July 28, 1820, and as a lad of less than seventeen years came to Michigan, where he arrived May 26, 1837. He at once entered the employ of Powell Grover, and during the next thirteen years worked on his farm and in his mill, at the end of that period being able to purchase the farm now owned by his son, William, then a tract of eighty acres. He spent the remainder of his life in cultivating this land, and died on his farm August 1, 1895, one of his community's most highly respected citizens. He was married in Michigan to Larettie Stookey, who was born April 4, 1822, in Pennsylvania, and she died January 3, 1872, having been the mother of one child, William.

William Gardner received his education in the district schools, the high school at Concord, Michigan, and the normal school at Valparaiso, Indiana. On completing his schooling he went on an extended trip through the west, visiting Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado, and after six years spent in various occupations and in familiarizing himself with agricultural conditions and methods, returned to the home farm, which he has since continued to cultivate. He has devoted himself to general farming and has made numerous improvements on the home property, including the erection of new buildings, among which is a handsome barn. He is considered one of the substantial men of his community, where his sterling integrity has won the confidence of his fellow townsmen, and has many friends throughout the township. In his political views he is a Republican, but he has never desired public office.

In 1894 Mr. Gardner was united in marriage with Miss Rebecca Billman, daughter of Nathan and Evelyn (Fayler) Billman, the former of whom still resides in Homer township, while the latter passed away in June, 1879. Two sons have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Gardner: DeWitt and Clair, both living at home.

WILFRID HAUGHEY, M. D. Man's greatest prize on earth is physical health and vigor; nothing deteriorates mental activity so quickly as prolonged sickness—hence the broad field for human helpfulness afforded in the medical profession. The successful doctor requires something more than mere technical training,—he must be a man of broad sympathy and genial kindliness, capable of inspiring hope and faith in the heart of his patient. Such a man is he whose name initiates this review. Since 1906 Dr. Haughey has been engaged in the practice of his profession at Battle Creek, Michigan, where he makes a specialty of diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat.

Dr. Wilfrid Haughey was born in Ross township, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, the date of his nativity being the 10th of August, 1880. He is a son of Dr. W. H. Haughey, with whom he is associated in practice and concerning whose career a sketch appears on other pages of this work so that further data in regard to the family history is not required at this point. The first in order of birth in a family of six children, Dr. Wilfrid Haughey received his rudimentary educational discipline in the public schools of Battle Creek. Subsequently he attended the Battle Creek high school, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1900. He was matriculated as a student in the University of Michigan in the fall of 1900 and was graduated in the literary department of that institution in 1904, duly receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Soon thereafter he entered the Detroit College of Medicine, in which he was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine, in 1906. Also in this year he received the degree of M. A., from the Detroit College, now the Detroit University. He initiated the

Hosted by Google

active practice of his profession at Battle Creek, in 1906, and since that time has been associated with his father, who controls a large and lucrative general practice, while he devotes his attention to diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. In connection with the work of his profession Dr. Haughey is a member of the Michigan State Medical Society, of which he is secretary, and he is also affiliated with the Calhoun County Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He is connected with the Detroit Otolaryngological Society; the American Academy of Medicine and the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology. He is editor of the Journal of the Michigan State Medical Society and was recently appointed, by President Taft, as First Lieutenant of the Medical Reserve Corps of the United States army. He is a member of the Phi Beta Pi Medical Fraternity, the National Geographic Society, the Athelstan Club of Battle Creek, and in his political convictions is a stalwart in the ranks of the Republican party.

At Sand Lake, Michigan, June 27, 1907, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Haughey to Miss Edythe L. Cowles, daughter of Clifton S. and Louise Cowles, of Sand Lake. Mrs. Haughey was born at Sand Lake and was graduated in the Greenville high school in 1901. She also attended the University of Michigan and for one year was a teacher in the Lowell schools, after which she taught for a similar period in the Greenville high school. Her father is a farmer in the vicinity of Sand Lake and she has two sisters, namely,—Mrs. R. R. Scott, of Ann Arbor; and Mrs. Arthur Penney, of Cadillac, Michigan. Dr. and Mrs. Haughey are the parents of three children,—Edythe Ellen, Wilfrid, Jr., and Clifton Francis, all of whom were born in Battle Creek, Michigan. In their religious faith the Haughey family are devout communicants of the Catholic church, being members of St. Philips church at Battle Creek. The home is maintained at No. 40 Poplar street and the Doctor's office is at No. 24 Main street, in the Kapp block. Dr. Haughey is a genial, kind-hearted man, one who is always considerate of others and who is ever lending a helping hand to those less fortunately situated in life than himself. He is ever on the alert to give of his aid and influence in support of all measures and enterprises advanced for the good of the general welfare and his civic attitude is characterized by loyalty and public spirit of the most insistent order.

JAMES STEPHEN UPTON. The name of James Stephen Upton is significant not only of the intrinsic character of the man, which was of an exceptionally high order; nor yet merely of that and the added importance of his influence on his city's growth and prosperity, which has been notable; but rather for these combined values, in view of the fact that his personality was one in which the stamina of race is demonstrated. Therefore an account of this lately deceased citizen of Battle Creek must be essentially a family history.

The Upton family is among those claiming most ancient lineage in the Anglo-Saxon world. At the time of the Norman conquest, they were settled in Cornwall, the known descent continuing in an unbroken line from the twelfth century to the period of John Upton. He was born in Cornwall in 1625 and became the founder of the Upton family in America. He came to America in 1652 and settled in the locality then called Salem Village, but now known as Danvers, Massachusetts. His wife was Eleanor Stuart, a scion of that Scottish family so conspicuous in the heroism, the romance and the tragedy of British history. A descendant of John Upton was William Upton, who married Mary Morse, a cousin of Samuel F. B. Morse, that man of mingled gifts whose skill as an artist has been all but forgotten in the light of his fame as

Hosted by Google

the inventor of the telegraph. A son of John Upton (IV) and his wife, was Daniel Upton, who was born in Dublin, New Hampshire, on the fourth day of December, 1796. His wife was Electa Fifield Randall, who was born in Danville, Vermont, on the eighth of August, 1888, and who was the daughter of Samuel Fifield, a Revolutionary patriot of considerable distinction. Both Daniel Upton and his wife died in the year 1888, at the family homestead near Batavia, New York. This old homestead was, on the twenty-second day of July, 1831, the birthplace of James Stephen Upton, to whom this sketch is dedicated. The place, which is a station on the Lehigh Valley Railroad, is now known as Upton Station.

Before viewing the career of James Stephen Upton, we will briefly outline that of his brother, Major General Emory Upton, whose name is so well known in the military world. His prominence grew steadily during the Civil war. After his graduation at West Point in 1861 he served in the army of the Potomac and in Georgia and Alabama. He attained the rank of brigadier-general in 1864 and from 1870 to 1875 was commandant of cadets at West Point. He was sent around the world by the United States government on a tour for investigating the military systems of Europe and Asia. On his return in 1876 he wrote out his scheme for a military system for the United States—one which embodied what he considered the best and most adaptable features of the armies of the countries he had visited. For some years the manuscript lay in the archives of the war department at Washington. When the Honorable Elihu Root became secretary of war, he recommended its adoption. Mr. Taft, who succeeded Secretary Root, accomplished its adoption and today the army is regulated by it. At the laying of the corner-stone of the War College in Washington, General Upton was given full credit for the plan. Another conspicuous honor which has been recently accorded General Upton is the naming of a Hawaiian military post Fort Upton. He has been widely known as a military tactician from the time of the Civil war; he was the author of "A New System of Infantry Tactics," published in 1867, and of "Armies of Asia and Europe," published in 1878.

James Upton received his earlier education in the public schools. He later attended Oberlin College, from which he was graduated. He then entered the Poughkeepsie Law School, completing his course in the year 1855, after which he came to Battle Creek to practice his profession.

On June third, 1857, he was married to Miss Viola Vernette Packer, who was born July 25th, 1838, and who was a daughter of Edward and Rachel (Platt) Packer, the father being a native of Guilford, Vermont. A family of fine attainments grew up about them, but it was Mr. Upton's misfortune to lose his life's companion twenty years before his own demise. Mrs. Upton died in Mobile, Alabama, in 1879.

From the time of James Stephen Upton's coming to Battle Creek to the time of his death, he was closely identified with all its worthy activities. Until 1860 he practiced his profession, being twice elected city attorney. But he had gradually become interested in the business interests of Battle Creek and in 1860 he left the practice of law and identified himself with the Upton Threshing Machine company of which he was made president and the signal success of which has been largely due to his ability and discrimination. Those characteristics, combined with certain others which make for good statesmanship, led the friends and fellow-townsmen of James Stephen Upton to desire his activity in the political world. In 1878 he received from his party the nomination for congress, although their minority in this section made an elec-

Hosted by Google

tion practically impossible. He was again honored by the Democratic party, both during one of the Cleveland campaigns and in that of Palmer, Bryan and McKinley, by being placed on the electoral ticket. He is remembered by earlier citizens of Battle Creek as one of its postmasters and as one who served as alderman at two different times when strong hands and intelligent minds were needed in such offices. In these and many other ways Mr. Upton's interests were closely interwoven with those of the city which was his chosen home during the years of his greatest efficiency. In religious affiliation he was a member of the Congregational church, of which he was an important supporter. His death occurred at home at 281 Upton avenue, on the fourth of March, 1899.

Since not only in his deeds, but also in his children does a man live after his earthly presence is no longer physically perceptible, the devoted children who survive their father must in their continuation of family characteristics and their furtherance of worthy activities seem a fitting sequel to an account of James Upton's personal achievements. Four children were born to him and his wife. Edward Frank Upton, the eldest, was born on the 31st of May, 1859, and was married to Jessie Peters of Chicago, on January 8, 1890. Two years later, in Mentone, France, where he had gone with his wife in the hope of regaining his failing health, he passed from life February 25, 1892. His remains were brought to Battle Creek for burial. Among the distinguishing activities of his too short life was his organization of the Athelstan Club of Battle Creek of which he was elected the first president; it is considered one of the finest men's clubs in the state.

Marie Rachel Upton was born on the eleventh day of June, 1862. She was educated at Ingham University in LeRoy, New York, from which famous old school she was graduated in 1883. In 1887 she went to New York City for further study, with a particular view to developing her artistic talent. To Florence, Italy, that Mecca of artists and art lovers she later went for the superior training of the masters there. On the 14th of April, 1898, she was married to Henry Martyn Strong, of Battle Creek. He was the son of Martin Dewey Strong, his birthplace being Pawlett, Vermont and his natal day the 13th of August, 1848. His father was also a native of Pawlett, where for several years he was judge of the probate court; his mother, Delia Maria Short, of Granville, New York, died in 1872. Henry Martyn Strong has been well known as a member of the firm of J. S. Upton and Company. Mrs. Strong is a charter member and has for several years been respectively regent and vice-regent of the Battle Creek chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The third child of James S. Upton was Martha Platt Upton, who was born December 16, 1864, and died nine days later. The youngest daughter, Grace Marie Louise Upton, was born on the ninth of December, 1865. She was educated in the public schools and in the Ingham University at LeRoy, New York, from which she was graduated in 1885. She is the present regent of the D. A. R. On the 25th of December, 1889, she was married to Charles Francis Bathrick, a son of Doctor Freeborn Bathrick and Georgiana Rowley, of the state of New York. He has been for many years connected with the Nichols & Shepard Company of Battle Creek, he is also prominent in social circles of the city, having been chairman of the Athelstan Club entertainment committee for the past twenty-two years and having been the latest incumbent of its presidential chair.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Bathrick—the grandchildren of J. S. Upton—are three in number. Viola Georgiana Bathrick was born on

Hosted by Google

April 21st, 1891. She was graduated from the Battle Creek high school in 1909 and attended Miss Mason's well-known school, "The Castle" at Tarrytown-on-the-Hudson, in New York. Donald Upton Bathrick was born on the 4th of March, 1893; and Frances Grace Bathrick was born on the 27th day of July, 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Bathrick reside in the Upton homestead, at No. 281 of the avenue which bears Mr. Upton's name.

ELLIS R. SMITH. One of the very interesting chapters in the history of any city is concerned with its theatrical and artistic activities, its recreations. No one citizen of Battle Creek is better informed as to these activities, and has been more influential in promoting and directing them, than Mr. E. R. Smith, who has been manager of the Post Theatre since its premier opening, was for many years manager of the old Hamblin Opera House, and for a quarter of a century has been the local manager for the principal amusements furnished the people of this city. Mr. Smith is closely connected with the general business enterprise of the city, and has had an interesting and varied career in which his energy and strong initiative have enabled him to create out of small opportunities a large and responsible position in the community.

Representing one of the old and prominent families of this part of Michigan, Ellis R. Smith was born in the town of Battle Creek, April 8, 1852. His father was Enos N. Smith and his mother Mary Ann (Phetteplace) Smith. Enos N. Smith was born in Genesee county, New York, February 21, 1821, and when a boy lost his father and then went to live in a stranger's home in that neighborhood. Acquiring the trade of wagon-maker, he followed that occupation in the east, and on his emigration to Michigan and settlement at the town of Otsego he again found employment in the same line. At Jackson, this state, he married for his first wife Harriet Holden, who at her death left one son, Julian, now a resident of Jackson. After his wife's death, Enos N. Smith returned to New York and was employed as a railroad engineer when railroads were new. After a few years he again took up his residence in Michigan, and located at Battle Creek. Here he conducted, under the firm name of Smith and Gardner, one of the old wagon shops of this city, owning and occupying property at the corner of Monroe and State streets, where they did a wagon making, blacksmithing and painting business. This was a very complete shop for the time, turning out a high grade of light and heavy vehicles, and the firm name soon became a guarantee for solid and enduring workmanship. In this way Enos N. Smith became one of the most prosperous business men of Battle Creek, and continued actively in the industry until the close of the war, when he sold out to his partner. Being an energetic man who could not endure idleness, he then entered the shops of the Nichols & Shepard Company, and was engaged in working on wheels for fourteen years, until failing health compelled his retirement. He died at the old home on 27 North avenue, May 2, 1896. He had purchased this home property on coming to the city, and built the residence which has been occupied by his wife for the last third of a century. He also bought a large tract of land on North avenue and erected the first house on McCamly street. He was an honorable and upright citizen, and was held in high esteem throughout the many years of his residence in this city. In politics he was a Democrat.

Enos N. Smith was married on March 12, 1851, to Miss Mary A. Phetteplace, at her home in Plainwell, Michigan. Mrs. Smith, who is

Hosted by Google

now eighty-three years of a healthy old age, one of the venerable pioneer women of Michigan, resides with her daughter in the old home on North avenue in this city. She was born in Burlington, New York, October 17, 1828, a daughter of Eseck and Submit (De Costin) Phetteplace. Her father, who was born in Rhode Island, October 23, 1800, when a young man removed to New Berlin, New York, where in 1821 he wedded Miss De Costin, daughter of Ebenezer De Costin, a French nobleman and a man of superior education. Mrs. Smith's paternal grandfather was Samuel Phetteplace, whose wife, Lydia Williams, was a descendant of the famous Roger Williams, the original settler and founder of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

Eseck Phetteplace, father of Mrs. Smith and maternal grandfather of Mr. E. R. Smith, was a Michigan pioneer whose career is identified with several localities in the southern part of this state. In New York he had been given a farm by his father, who was a wealthy man, but later he sold that place and moved first to Crawford county, Ohio, and thence to Michigan, settling at Coldwater in 1835. There he conducted a grist and saw mill as one of the important enterprises for that new community, and subsequently settled at Pine Creek in Allegan county, where he had one of the pioneer mills for two years. He then bought a farm near the village of Plainwell, in the same county. While living there his wife died, and after that he was engaged in the grocery business. The last years of his long and eventful life were spent in retirement, and he died at the home of a daughter in Plainwell, October 22, 1892.

Mrs. Smith was educated in the schools near her father's home, and though her girlhood home was one of more than ordinary comforts and environment of prosperity, she witnessed many of the pioneer conditions inseparable from the life on the frontier. Since her marriage she has been a resident of Battle Creek, and here her recollections go back to the city in its village days. She was the mother of four children, of whom Ellis R. was the first son. Daisy L., died when she was twenty-three years, six months and nineteen days. Mabelle E. resides with her mother. Lynn, who is also at home, is an actor of the old school and until failing health recently compelled him to leave the profession he was for years active in the work and traveled throughout the country.

Ellis R. Smith no doubt received from these ancestors many of the qualities and faculties which have distinguished his own career. As a boy he attended the Battle Creek public schools, and he and his two sisters graduated from the high school. His first regular employment was with H. J. Johnson, the news and stationery dealer. He was employed in the postoffice while J. S. Upton and William H. Fonda were respectively postmaster and assistant postmaster, that being under a Democratic administration. He then attended the Bryant & Stratton Business College which was then located in Battle Creek, and graduated from that school. After L. B. Dibble had constructed the old Peninsular Railway, now the Grand Trunk, Mr. Smith had an offer to sell books, etc., on that railroad, and at the same time was given an opportunity to become bookkeeper in a bank at Burlingame, Kansas. On the advice of an uncle he leased the news business for two trains on the railroad. To increase his own capital for that enterprise he borrowed fifty dollars from this uncle, Mr. J. Phetteplace, his mother's brother, who then lived in Augusta, Michigan, and afterwards died in Denver, where he had gone for his health. During his career as a "news butch" on the road, Thomas Edison, the inventor, was a newsboy running between Port Huron and Lansing. After he had been on

Hosted by Google

the road about a year he one day, while passing from coach to coach, fell astraddle of the coupling. This narrow escape caused him to quit that end of the business, and he then started a news depot in opposition to his old employer, H. J. Johnson, and continued in the business for more than twenty-five years.

Out of this first enterprise have developed almost in regular sequence most of his other undertakings. He established and is still proprietor of the E. R. Smith Advertising Service, a bill posting and distribution business which he has made an important factor in the advertising facilities of this city. Some twenty years ago he built in this city the Eclipse roller skating rink, a place of amusement that will be recalled by all residents of that time. For fifteen years he managed the Hamblin Opera House, which had the best productions that came to the city during that period, and many pleasant associations and memories linger about the history of that old play house. Since March 13, 1903, he has been the manager of the fine Post Theater, which is one of the largest and best play houses in the state, and is claimed to rank among the first dozen in capacity and equipment in the United States. Its seating capacity is fourteen hundred, and its stage has facilities for any class of theatrical production. At the opening of the theatre, on the date mentioned, Nat Goodwin and Maxine Elliott in "When we were 21" gave the premier performance. This theatre is owned by a stock company and was given its name because of Mr. C. W. Post's large financial support to the enterprise.

Mr. Smith is also a stockholder in the Union Steam Pump Company, the Battle Creek Brewing Company, the Post Theatre Company, the Central National Bank and the City Bank of Battle Creek. In politics he has always been a Republican, and at the first election after he became of age he and his father went to the polls together, one of them voting the Democratic ticket and the other the Republican. Mr. Smith is a charter member of the Elks lodge in this city, and is also one of the oldest members of the Knights of Pythias, and belongs to the Athelstan Club. While not a member of any church himself, his family belong to the St. Thomas Episcopal and he is liberal in its support.

Mr. Smith resides at No. 1 Green street, corner of East Main. He was married on September 30, 1879, to Miss Ella Andrus, daughter of the late George Andrus, of Goguac prairie. Her mother was Diana (Sweet) Andrus. Mrs. Smith is a native of this county, and is a graduate of the Battle Creek high school. One daughter, Beatrice F., was born of their marriage, and she is the wife of Mr. W. P. Slayton, now engaged in the mining business at Morgan City, Utah. Mr. Slayton is a member of the family whose name for many years has been well known through the Slayton Lyceum Bureau, now the Ridpath-Slayton Bureau, which has furnished the highest class attractions to chautauquas, churches, lecture associations, etc. Mr. Slayton was himself until about three years ago the active manager of the Slayton Bureau, and is still identified with the business. Mr. and Mrs. Slayton are the parents of one son, Ellis Philip Slayton, who was born in Battle Creek, February 19, 1906.

JAMES P. HUGHES. As postmaster at Marshall, James P. Hughes is rendering the city and its people appreciated service, being an efficient, accommodating, and eminently popular public official. A native of Calhoun county, he was born, July 24, 1877, on a farm near Marengo, where his parents, Paschal and Anna B. (Francisco) Hughes, were then living, although they are now residents of Marshall. His father,

Hosted by Google

a native of Missouri, was born and reared in Lafayette, a village lying near Lexington, which was the scene of a hard-fought battle during the stirring times of the Civil war.

But seven years old when his parents settled in the vicinity of Marshall, James P. Hughes acquired his early education in its public schools, serving under Stephen F. Snyder, as a clerk in the Marshall postoffice for two years. For political reasons, he was then relieved of his position. Subsequently he took a position as manager for Andrew Crystal, serving him about seven years. Mr. Hughes embarked in the clothing business with Mr. H. M. Holmes, for five years, carrying on a large and successful trade as senior member of the firm of Hughes and Holmes. On October 27, 1910, Mr. Hughes was appointed by President Taft postmaster at Marshall, for a term of four years, and has since performed the duties devolving upon him in this capacity with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the patrons of the office.

Politically Mr. Hughes is prominent in Republican ranks, and has served as chairman of the Calhoun County Republican Committee, and secretary of the Lincoln Republican County Committee, and for four years represented the Second ward as an alderman. Fraternally he is a member of Saint Albans Lodge, No. 20, Free and Accepted Masons, Peninsular Lodge No. 5, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Marshall Lodge, No. 179, Knights of Pythias, of which he is past chancellor; and also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America; and to the Tribe of Ben Hur and the Maccabees.

Mr. Hughes married, May 1, 1900, Mary D. Stone, of Marshall, a daughter of W. D. Stone, ex-sheriff of Calhoun county, and one of its well known and much respected citizens.

JOHN CARLOS BARBER. Michigan owes no little of her greatness to those hardy pioneers who drove the Indians before them as they penetrated the fertile valleys, hewed down the forests and broke the primal sod for the first harvests. Men and women were giants in those days, for it took stout hearts, alert minds and willing hands to conquer the wilderness. In the later, easier years those who survive have not lost the qualities of courage, determination and infinite patience in the face of discouragement and these have been transmitted to their children, who, big, brave and brainy have trod the pathway to success in every field of effort. One of Battle Creek's most notable pioneers is John Carlos Barber, who as a lad five years of age, came with his father across the country from far away Vermont to Michigan, making a journey whose difficulties today would be inconceivable. That was in 1839, ever since which time he has resided in Michigan, and since 1861 in Battle Creek. He has been actively identified in this half century with the many-sided life of the place and is now interested in several important corporations, among them the Commonwealth Light & Power Company.

Mr. Barber is a native of Benson, Rutland county, Vermont, his birth having occurred there on March 14, 1834. His parents were Edward and Abigail (Griswold) Barber. When he was a child but three years of age he had the misfortune to lose his mother by death. There were five children in the family and of this number he was the youngest. The father married again, his second wife being Laura Root. In 1839, the family set forth for the newer, richer northwest, their destination being Vermontville, Eaton county, Michigan, whence a number of their Green Mountain state neighbors had preceded them. The father had visited Michigan in 1836 and had purchased a large tract of land covered with dense timber. The journey from White-

Hosted by Google

hall to Buffalo, New York, was made by canal and then by steamer on the lake to Detroit, and then from Detroit to Eaton county by wagon. They reached the new home after many days and in the ensuing years the father with the aid of his sons cleared and developed it and this old homestead was the scene of the rearing of the subject, of his childhood and youth. He received his education in the district schools afforded in that day and gave his youthful strength to the manifold duties of the farm. When twenty-two years of age, he began to learn the carpenter's trade, and served a regular apprenticeship receiving ten dollars a month for his services. Later he came to the conclusion that this was not his life work, and he accordingly sold his tools and gave up building operations.

In the meantime Mr. Barber had married, the young woman to become his wife being Sarah S. Welch and the wedding being celebrated at Clinton, Michigan, December 29, 1858. She was born in Orleans county, New York, the daughter of David and Olive (Whitmarsh) Welch, who had migrated to Michigan in 1851, and located in Charlotte, Eaton county, when Mrs. Barber was fourteen years old. After his marriage Mr. Barber engaged in the livery business in Charlotte and remained there until June 15, 1861, when he removed his stock to Battle Creek, then a town of 3,500 inhabitants. He located on what is now the corner of State and Monroe streets and continued there in business unfil he was elected sheriff of Calhoun county. After retiring from that office he again conducted a livery barn, but only for a comparatively short period, for he became connected with the Union School Furniture Company as a stock-holder and director, and continued thus identified until the factory was destroyed by fire in 1892. This was a great disaster to the subject, for he had invested the substantial fortune made in his earlier years and he lost absolutely everything he had. In this hour of misfortune, which might have proved the undoing of a less resolute man, his strong character became apparent and conquering his discouragement he set to work to retrieve his lost fortune. That he succeeded is shown by the fact that later on he became financially interested in a number of important corporations. For about nine years he was collector with the Nichols & Shepard Company and did important work in the services of that large concern. He is now a stockholder in the Commonwealth Light & Power Company, in fact was one of the first stockholders. He is also identified in the same capacity with the Power Company, Ltd., of Battle Creek. He also has held for eight years the office of sheriff of Calhoun county, having been elected four times to the same, but not in succession. No one could have proved more faithful and efficient as the strong arm of the law. In politics he is a tried and true Republican, his first presidential vote having been cast for John C. Fremont in 1856. Mr. Barber became familiar with the duties of the office of sheriff in youth, having served as deputy in Charlotte, Eaton county, under B. W. Warren, for a period of four years just previous to coming to Battle Creek. After coming here he was again deputy for two terms under Sheriffs Buck and Richfield, and all in all, no one knows more as to the preservation of law and order than this gentleman. He was first elected to the main office in 1876, and took office the following vear, and being subsequently re-elected, this time served two terms. After an interval of two terms, he was again elected in the fall of 1884 and again in 1886.

Mr. Barber is a prominent Mason, belonging to Battle Creek Lodge, No. 12. F. & A. M., Chapter and Commandery. While residing at Marshall during his office of sheriff he joined the ancient order and

Hosted by Google

was subsequently transferred to Battle Creek. He was also at one time a member of the Athelstan Club, but withdrew. Since the fall of 1904 he has been president of the Oak Hill Cemetery Company of this city. In addition to the business interests above noted he was vice-president of the Battle Creek Electric Company.

To the union of the subject and his estimable wife was born one daughter, Nellie B., now the wife of Arthur W. Davis of this city. She is a native of Charlotte, Michigan, and a graduate of the Battle Creek high school. She and her husband have three children—Louise, Helen and Edward C., and all reside in their parents' home, at 26 Fremont street, over which Mrs. Davis presides in adequate fashion. The death of Mrs. Barber, occurred in 1904 (May 26). Previous to that, Mr. and Mrs. Barber traveled quite extensively. The subject and his family have ever enjoyed highest esteem in the communities in which their interests have been centered.

WESLEY W. MCCLINTIC. Worthy of especial note among the energetic and progressive men who have contributed so largely toward the development and advancement of the agricultural prosperity of Calhoun county is Wesley W. McClintic, a prominent farmer of Homer township. A native of Ohio, he was born, October 17, 1846, in Wood county, of Pennsylvania ancestry.

Thomas McClintic, his father, was born, January 12, 1812, in Pennsylvania, and when quite young removed to Ohio, where he worked at farming for several years. In 1854 he came with his family to Michigan, and having purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Eaton county resided there twelve years. Locating in Albion township, Calhoun county, he worked on a farm for a time, and then purchased one hundred and eighty acres of land in Jackson county, and continued his agricultural operations for twelve years. Selling that property, he bought a smaller farm in the same county, and was there a resident until his death, November 9, 1885. He was a politician to some extent, being first a Whig, and later a Republican. As a young man he belonged to the United Brethren church, but after coming to Michigan he became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. While living in Ohio, he married Margaret Needham, who was born in Pennsylvania, May 4, and died in Michigan in 1895. Twelve children were born to them, Wesley W. being the sixth child in the succession of birth.

As a boy and youth Wesley W. McClintic attended school in Eaton, Calhoun and Jackson counties, and early became familiar with the various branches of agriculture. Beginning life for himself poor in pocket, but rich in energy and ambition, he worked by the day or month as a farm hand, and also acquired some knowledge of the stone mason's trade. During the Civil war he enlisted in Company C, Twenty-eighth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and with his command took part in several engagements, including the siege of Nashville, and the Battle of Wise Forks. Being honorably discharged at the end of his term of enlistment, Mr. McClintic returned home, and afterwards spent a year in Missouri. Not liking that part of the country, he returned to Michigan, and in 1822 first became a landholder, purchasing sixty acres of land in Calhoun county. Selling out at the end of eight years, Mr. McClintic bought his present farm of one hundred and twenty-nine acres in Homer township, and for several years was active and successful in its management. Having accumulated a competency, he turned the management of his estate over to his son, and lived retired from business in the village of Homer until the death of his son's wife, when

Hosted by Google

both he and his wife returned to the old home farm to keep house for his son.

Mr. McClintic married, in 1872, Sarah C. Fisher, a daughter of Matthias and Ann Maria (Mench) Fisher, residents of Jackson county, where Mr. Fisher is a prominent farmer. Mr. and Mrs. McClintic are the parents of two children, namely: Albert L., now on the home farm; and Mrs. Mabel Bacon, of Lansing, Michigan. Albert L. McClintic married Florence Riggs, who died in 1911, leaving one daughter, Elva. Politically Mr. Clintic is a Republican, and socially he is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

FRED S. CORTRIGHT. Far-sighted, persevering, and possessing pronounced business acumen, Fred S. Cortright, of Homer, president of the Homer State Bank, has contributed in no small measure to the agricultural and industrial interests of Calhoun county as well as to its financial prosperity. A son of C. C. Cortright, he was born, February 7, 1861, in Hillsdale county, Michigan, where he received his early education.

His ancestors came from Belgium to America and settled in New York state where the city of New York now is. The old Flemish town of Kortryk is situated in the southeast part of West Flanders on the east bank of the River Lys. It is a manufacturing town of 27,000. This was the home of the earliest ancestors of the Kortryk (or Cortright) family, the first of the name coming to New York in 1663.

Born in New York state in 1827, C. C. Cortright remained at home until after attaining his majority. Following the march of civilization westward in the early fifties, he located in Hillsdale county, and for nearly ten years was engaged in the manufacture of lumber, operating a sawmill. Removing from there to Branch county, he opened a flour mill at Podunk, near Coldwater, where he remained three years. Returning then to Hillsdale county, he assumed possession of the two hundred and twenty-acre farm which he purchased several years prior to that time, and was there engaged in farming for several years. In 1886 he erected a mill in Homer, and was here engaged in business until his death, in 1904, owning and supervising the business that has since been in operation under the firm name of the Cortright Milling Company. He was a man of integrity and worth, belonging to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for many years, and though not a politician always voted the Democratic ticket. He married, September 28, 1856, Cornelia Webber, who was born in Richland county, Ohio, February 19, 1839, and died in Homer, Michigan, June 17, 1911. The five children born of their union are all residing in Homer, as follows: Mrs. Jennie Rising; Will H.; Fred S.; Mrs. Lucy Crane; and David W.

Obtaining his first knowledge of the three "R's" in the rural schools of his native district, Fred S. Cortright completed his early studies in Hillsdale, attending first the graded schools, and later a commercial college. He was subsequently engaged in agricultural pursuits on his father's farm until 1886, when he came to Homer to assist in the management of the mill established by his father. He retained his connection with the milling industry until 1907, during the last five years of the time buying stock, his health not permitting him to work in the mill. Turning his attention then to agriculture, Mr. Cortright purchased one hundred and nineteen acres of land at Grand Ledge, Eaton county, and took up his residence in the village. Disposing of that property, he bought, in Homer township, two hundred and forty acres of the Gibbs estate, and lived upon it six months, when he sold at an advantage. While on the farm, Mr. Cortright raised and fed hogs,

Hosted by Google

and had a fine dairy of thoroughbred Jersey cattle. He also paid a good deal of attention to the breeding of poultry, an industry in which he had been interested from childhood, always keeping standard breeds of poultry as well as of cattle and hogs. After selling his farm, Mr. Cortright organized the Homer State Bank, of Homer, it being capitalized at $20,000.00, with a surplus of $4,000.00, and average deposits of $50,000.00, opening the institution on February 7, 1911.

Mr. Cortright married, December 18, 1884, Jennie L. Holmes, a daughter of D. C. Holmes, of Mosherville, Michigan, and they are the parents of two children, namely: Bessie L., born January 31, 1886, at Hillsdale, is a graduate of the Homer High School, and living at home; and Le Grande H., born July 14, 1887, who is in business at Grand Ledge. Politically, Mr. Cortright is an Independent Democrat, and fraternally is a member of Humanity Lodge, No. 29, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons; and of Homer Lodge, No. 88, Knights of Pythias.

CLELLAN A. FINLEY. Perseverance, energy, industry and resolute purpose are shown in the life of Clellan A. Finley, who is one of the progressive farmers and stock raisers of Calhoun county, and whose excellent property of 168 acres is situated in Homer township. These traits of character are the price of success in these modern days of farming, when the hard, unremitting toil of former years has given way to scientific use of modern machinery and a knowledge of the proper treatment of the soil. Calhoun county has many skilled farmers, who treat their vocation more as a profession than as a mere occupation, and take a justifiable pride in their accomplishments, and among these Mr. Finley holds a prominent position. Like many of the successful agriculturists of Michigan, he is a native of the Empire state, having been born in Walworth, Wayne county, New York, February 29, 1864, and is a son of Theron J. and Martha (Mason) Finley. Theron Finley was born February 25, 1840, in Wayne county, New York, and was there married, his wife being also a native of that county. They had a family of seven children, of whom Clellan A. is the third in order of birth. Mr. Finley was engaged in agricultural pursuits in New York, and rose to a position of prominence, becoming supervisor of his township. Subsequently he took his family to Calhoun county, Michigan, and in 1898 located in Albion, where he now lives a retired life, enjoying the well-earned fruits of a long life of industry.

Clellan A. Finley secured his education in the district schools of New York, and was reared to the vocation of an agriculturist, which he has followed throughout his life. He began his career in New York, but in 1886 came to Albion township, Calhoun county, and for seven years worked a farm on shares. Being industrious and enterprising, he carefully invested his savings, and in 1899 purchased his present property, to which he has added from time to time, now being the owner of 168 acres. He has been one of the progressive agriculturists of his section, and has also done considerable in the line of breeding fine cattle. He is considered one of the best judges of stock in his part of the country, and his judgment is often sought on questions connected with agricultural interests.

In 1890 Mr. Finley was married to Miss Edith Phillips, daughter of Joseph Phillips, also of Walworth, Wayne county, New York, where her parents still make their home, and three children have been born to this union: Lucian, Frank, and one that died in infancy. In his political views Mr. Finley is a Democrat, but his farming interests have satisfied his ambitions, and he has not sought to enter the public arena

Hosted by Google

as a candidate for office, although he takes a keen interest in anything that affects his community, and is a supporter of movements calculated to benefit its interests. He has found time to engage in fraternal work, and is a popular member of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America. His postoffice address is Homer.

SAMUEL S. TEETERS. Ever since its incorporation, Calhoun county has been noted for its phenomenal development, due not only to the fertility of its land, but to the enterprise and public spirit of its citizens as well. Especially has this growth and development been apparent in the last few years, during which it has advanced in great strides and taken its place in the front rank of Michigan counties. One who has done his share in bringing about this state of affairs is Samuel S. Teeters, of Clarendon township, the owner of a tract of 368 acres of land, acknowledged to be one of the finest farms in Calhoun county. Mr. Teeters was born in DeKalb county, Indiana, August 18, 1861, son of Washington and Ethalinda (Cupp) Teeters.

Washington Teeters was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, October 4, 1827, and was married April 19, 1858, to Ethalinda Cupp, who was born September 7, 1838, in Stark county, Ohio. They had a family of seven children, of whom Samuel S. is the second in order of birth. During his younger years Mr. Teeters had been a carpenter, but after his marriage he took up farming as a vocation, and followed that occupation in DeKalb county, Indiana, until his death, September 1, 1885. He became prominent in politics, serving as justice of the peace for sixteen years, and as trustee of the township and in various other offices, was successful in his business ventures, and was very highly regarded throughout his community, being often consulted on various subjects by those of the community who were not so well informed. Fraternally he was a Mason and an Odd Fellow, and his religious connection was with the Presbyterian church, to which his widow, who survives him and resides at Auburn, Indiana, also belongs.

Samuel S. Teeters received his early education in the public schools of Auburn, Indiana, and as a youth entered the hardware business and also clerked in a private bank owned by John L. Davis. He returned to the hardware business, however, and for seventeen years owned a large establishment in Garrett, Indiana, which he developed into one of the most successful business ventures of that section of the state. In 1907, however, Mr. Teeters heard the call of the soil, and, disposing of his large interests in Indiana, came to Michigan and purchased his present farm in Clarendon township. This tract of 368 acres is devoted to general farming, but Mr. Teeters also devotes a great deal of attention to the raising of fine livestock, specializing in Guernsey cattle and Shropshire sheep, and also breeding a fine grade of hogs. It has been the policy of Mr. Teeters to strive for personal success, for he believes that the prosperity of the individual is the keystone to national prosperity. He has always labored systematically, and with a definite end in view, and the marked success which he has attained testifies to the efficacy of his system. Politically a Democrat, while in Garrett he served as president of the town board, and his religious belief is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a member of Garrett Masonic Lodge No. 127 and Chapter No. 129, and to Kendallville Commandery No. 19, Knights Templar, and also holds membership in Garrett Lodge No. 602, I. O. O. F.

On August 23, 1885, Mr. Teeters was married to Miss Effie McDanel, daughter of the late Henry McDanel, a farmer of Richland county, Ohio, and nine children have been born to this union: Frank, engaged in the

Hosted by Google

insurance business in Chicago; John, a hardware clerk at Tiffin, Ohio; Paul, who assists his father on the home farm; Boyd, a graduate of the Tekonsha high school, class of 1912; William, a member of the class of 1913 at that institution; Catherine, Thompson and George, who are attending the graded schools; and Jessie, the baby, at home.

FRANK EDWARD DEMING. Prominently identified with the advancement of the mercantile prosperity of Calhoun county, Frank Edward Deming, of Homer, has built up a substantial business as manager of one of the largest, best-kept and best managed department stores in this part of the state. The representative of an early and highly esteemed pioneer of this county, he was born, August 12, 1866, in Clarendon township, Calhoun county, Michigan, at Bentley's Corners.

His father, Col. A. L. Deming, was born in New York state, in 1808, and there grew to manhood. He was active in public affairs, very patriotic and public-spirited, and during the Black Hawk War commanded a body of troops. Subsequently locating in Homer, Michigan, he won an extended reputation as an able and influential lawyer, and became quite prosperous, acquiring some property ere his death, which occurred in 1870, when he was but sixty-two years of age. He was twice married. The maiden name of his second wife, to whom he was married in 1865, was Isabella Bentley. She was born, in 1844, in Clarendon township, Calhoun county, where her parents were prominent pioneers. She is still living, and was the wife of the late Albert Winterstein. Col. Deming was a Democrat in politics, and quite influential in party ranks. Fraternally he was a member of Humanity Lodge, No. 29, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, and served as master of his lodge. Religiously he was an Episcopalian.

The only son of his parents, Frank Edward Deming received his preliminary educational training in the district schools of Homer township. Subsequently, having been left fatherless when but four years of age, and dependent to some extent on his own resources, he worked by the month or day on a farm until attaining his majority. His health becoming impaired from overwork while thus employed, Mr. Deming took charge of a district school the following winter, and at the end of the term went to Albion to continue his studies. The ensuing winter found him again at the teacher's desk, and when completing that term he took a business course at Cleary's Commercial College, in Ypsilanti. Unable on account of his health to then enter upon a professional career, Mr. Deming accepted a position in a store at Ypsilanti, where he remained a year, receiving three dollars a week as wages to start. The following year he was similarly employed in Charlotte, Michigan, from there coming to Homer, and entering the mercantile establishment of Mr. Linn, for whom he worked six years as a clerk. In 1902 Mr. Deming took over the business of Mr. Linn, and is now manager of a very large and attractive department store, which is owned by a company, and in which he is the controlling stockholder.

Mr. Deming married, in 1898, Miss Ella M. Collins, of North Adams, Michigan, a daughter of Norman and Helen Collins, of Homer, Mr. Collins being associated in business with Mr. Deming. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Deming, namely: Helen Isabelle, Ruth Ella, and Donald C. Politically Mr. Deming is independent, voting for the best men and measures, regardless of party restrictions. Both he and Mrs. Deming are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, which which he united when about twenty years of age. He is a member of its board of trustees, and for many years has served as superintendent of its Sunday School.

Hosted by Google

GEORGE A. HAYNES, M. D. Identified with one of the most useful and exacting professions to which a man may devote his time and energies, George A. Haynes, M. D., of Homer, has won a place of distinction among the able and successful physicians of Calhoun county, and by his genial manners and kindly courtesy has endeared himself to all classes of people. Coming from honored New England stock, he was born, May 15, 1858, in Princeton, Massachusetts, which was also the birthplace of his parents, Joshua Albert and Charlotte (Perkins) Haynes. He is a grandson of Captain Aaron Haynes, who won fame as an officer in the Revolutionary army, and traces his ancestry back in a direct line to the sixteenth century, while mention of that branch of the Haynes family from which he is descended is frequent in the early history of New England.

The sixth child in order of birth of the parental household, George A. Haynes gleaned the rudiments of his education in the public schools of Princeton, Massachusetts, and in 1880 was graduated from Wesleyan Academy, at Wilbraham, Massachusetts. He subsequently served as principal of the high school in Dalton, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, and afterwards studied medicine in New York, having for his preceptor a graduate of the University of Michigan. He entered the Medical Department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and was there graduated with the degree of M. D. in 1884. Immediately beginning the practice of his chosen profession in Homer, Dr. Haynes met with encouraging success from the start. The Doctor is a member of both the Calhoun County Medical Society, and the Michigan State Medical Society.

Politically Dr. Haynes is affiliated with the Republican party. Fraternally he belongs to Humanity Lodge, No. 29, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons; and to Homer Lodge, No. 88, Knights of Pythias. Both the Doctor and Mrs. Haynes are valued members of the Presbyterian church.

Dr. Haynes married Dec. 1, 1892, Kittie A. Dorsey, a daughter of Thomas and Frances (McCarthy) Dorsey, of Homer, and they have two children, namely: Fannie L., and Theodore Parsons, born in 1901, who attends the public schools of Homer.

SUMNER ORLANDO BUSH. Conspicuous among the real builders and promoters of Battle Creek is Sumner Orlando Bush, who possesses a rare combination of qualities that has, even in this competitive age, won him eminent success in the business world, and placed him in a position of prominence and influence among his fellow-citizens. A native of Michigan, he was born, May 7, 1847, in Jackson county, where his childhood days were spent.

His parents, Frederick E. and Cynthia M. (Willard) Bush, were born, reared and married in Portage Falls, New York. Following the tide of emigration westward soon after their marriage, they lived several years on a farm in Jackson county, Michigan. In 1853 they removed to Le Roy township, Calhoun county, Michigan, where they purchased land, and continued farming until ready to retire from active pursuits. They spent their closing years at the home of their son Sumner, at Battle Creek. Both were valued members of the Congregational church, and the father was a Republican in politics.

Laying a substantial foundation for his future education in the

Hosted by Google

country schools, Sumner Orlando Bush subsequently entered Olivet College, in Olivet, Michigan, where he was graduated in 1870 with the degree of Bachelor of Science. During his collegiate course, he taught in the institution a part of the time, and later, after teaching one term in Le Roy township, was elected superintendent of the Le Roy township schools, a position which he held several years. After his marriage, Mr. Bush managed his father's farm for a number of seasons, and also bought and shipped stock, wool, and apples, carrying on an extensive and successful business. Ere leaving the farm, Mr. Bush became financially interested in the Advance Thresher Company of Battle Creek, and on March 1, 1888, was elected a member of its board of directors. During the same year, being elected vice-president of the organization, he removed with his family to Battle Creek to assume active connection with the company, and, owing to the absence of its president, Mr. Wright, of Alma, Michigan, the duties of that office also devolved upon him to some extent. On February 16, 1889, he was elected general manager, and in the control of the Company's affairs, Mr. Bush showed marked ability, greatly enlarging the scope and magnitude of its business. When he first became associated with the Company, its plant was small, occupying but one of the two buildings now used, and giving employment to about a hundred people. From time to time, as the demands of the business required, other buildings were erected, until now it is one of the largest threshing machine plants in the country, sending out an annual product valued at more than three million dollars. The plant now covers forty acres of land, and is situated on two great railroad lines, the Grand Trunk and the Michigan Central, and furnishes employment to nearly one thousand men in addition to the one hundred and fifty commercial salesmen traveling all the time throughout the Union. The Company likewise has branch houses in all the principal cereal growing states of our country, its business having assumed gigantic proportions. In November, 1911, this great Company with which Mr. Bush was so long associated was sold to the Rumley Company, of New York, but he still remains one of its stockholders.

Mr. Bush is connected with other enterprises, being vice-president of the Peerless Portland Cement Company, of Union City, Michigan; vice-president of the Silexoid Portland Cement Company, of Chicago; and is chairman of the Consolidated Ice Company, Limited. He still owns the parental estate of three hundred and sixty acres, five hundred and twenty acres in all, in Le Roy township, where he raises both stock and grain, more as a source of pleasure and recreation than for profit, although the latter is almost inevitable.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Bush was president of the Battle Creek Board of Public Works for five years, during which time work on the sewer system was inaugurated. In 1896 he served as presidential elector, casting his ballot for William McKinley. He has frequently been a delegate to state conventions, but has never been an aspirant for official honors, doing his best public service as a private citizen. Socially he is a member of the Athelstan Club.

Mr. Bush married, September 26, 1877, Miss Vernellie Daley, a daughter of Elijah and Mary (Shean) Daley, and of their union three children have been born, namely: Vernon E., Charles S., and Bertha V. Both of the sons are graduates of the University of Michigan, and each has taken post graduate work. Miss Bertha was graduated from the Battle Creek high school, and later was a member of class 1904, in the Mount Vernon Seminary, at Washington, District of Columbia. The

Hosted by Google

pleasant home of Mr. Bush and his family, at No. 182 Maple street, is a center of social activity, and the scene of many a brilliant function.

AUSTIN WHITE ALVORD, A. M., M. D. Occupying a prominent position as a member of the medical profession not only in Battle Creek but throughout the state of Michigan, Dr. Austin White Alvord, an eminent physician and surgeon, comes of an old and honored family that was established in New England only a few years after the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth Rock. It was in 1635 that the first of the name came to the New World, crossing the Atlantic and locating near Gloucester, Massachusetts, others of the family removing later to Granby, in the same state.

Gad Alvord, grandfather of the Doctor, married Phoebe White, a direct descendant of Peregrine White, the first white child born in the Plymouth colony. The grandfather was killed by accident when about forty-five years of age, there having been eleven children born to him and his wife, the tenth in order of birth being Alanson Alvord, the father of Dr. Alvord. His birth occurred in Granby, Massachusetts, June 26, 1803, and he acquired a liberal education, largely through the medium of his own efforts. After spending two years in Yale College, he entered the Union Theological Seminary, of New York, and on completing the course of study in that institution was graduated and ordained as a minister of the Congregational church. He entered upon his ministerial labors at Chester, Massachusetts, in 1835, and during the years that followed his earnest efforts proved a potent force in the moral development of the community. In 1847 he was one of the seven home missionaries who went from Massachusetts to Illinois to inaugurate the work of the Congregational church in that state, and was present and assisted in the founding of the First Congregational church of Chicago, Illinois, in 1851, Dr. Alvord also being present on that occasion. The new organization began its existence with thirteen members, and at this time is one of the largest congregations in Chicago. Rev. Alvord became the pastor of the Congregational church at Downer's Grove, Illinois, where he remained until accepting a call to the pastorate of the church at York, Pennsylvania, in which place he continued his labors up to the time of his demise, in 1862. His influence was of no restricted order and there was not denied to him the harvest nor the aftermath of his labors. A man of scholarly attainments and untiring zeal, he became recognized as one of the leading representatives of the Congregational ministry, and his death was mourned not only among the members of his own congregation and his immediate family, but by all who had ever come in contact with him either as minister or as friend, his many admirable qualities of mind and heart having drawn all to him. Rev. Alvord was married to Miss Barrows, of Brimfield, Massachusetts, a lady of broad education, culture and refinement, who was chosen by Mary Lyons as one of her teachers when she founded her seminary for young ladies at Mount Holyoke. She traced her ancestry back to the year 1640, when a member of the Barrows family located in Salem, Massachusetts. Her grandfather was a soldier during the Revolutionary war, and her father, Abner Barrows, was a farmer of Brimfield, Massachusetts. To Rev. and Mrs. Alvord were born four children, of whom Austin W. is the eldest. The mother died in 1849 and was buried at Concord (now Chapin), Illinois.

In his early youth Dr. Austin W. Alvord obtained a good, practical education in the common schools, and afterwards prepared for college at Oberlin, Ohio. He entered Oberlin College, but during his junior year left that institution and entered the literary department of the

Hosted by Google

University of Michigan, from which he now holds the degree of Master of Arts, an honorary degree conferred upon the Doctor by the university of 1902. On the completion of his literary course, he engaged in teaching for a number of years, being superintendent of the schools of Owego, New York, at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war. At that time Dr. Alvord enlisted in Company H, 109th Regiment, New York Volunteer, Infantry, and went to the front as captain of his company, many of his former students going with him as members of his company. Going into camp at Binghamton, New York, they went from there to Washington, D. C., where they were engaged in guarding the railroad for some time. Later the regiment became a part of the Ninth Army Corps of the Army of Potomac and participated in all the campaigns up to the time of the surrender of Gen. Lee at Appomattox. Early in 1864 Dr. Alvord was promoted to the rank of Post quartermaster of the Department of the South, on the staff of Gen. Foster, with headquarters at Hilton Head and Beaufort, South Carolina. He acted as surgeon during the greater part of the closing year of the war, for, although he had not graduated, he had spent two years as a student in the medical department of the University of Michigan. By the order of the Secretary of War, he was finally honorably discharged on account of disability, in October, 1864, for he was broken in health and was discharged by order of Secretary of War on recommendation of Board of Army Surgeons, although his release came greatly against his own wishes. On regaining his health to some extent, he completed his course in medicine, graduating in 1868 from the medical department of the University of Michigan, from which institution he now holds two degrees.

At that time Dr. Alvord established an office at Clinton, Lenawee county, Michigan, where he was engaged in practice in 1882, when, in order to avoid the arduous duties of a large country practice, he came to Battle Creek. Here he has risen to an eminent place in his profession, and although he has given a great deal of attention to general practice is probably best known for his success in surgical cases. Dr. Alvord is a member of the Calhoun County Medical Society and the State Medical Society, and of each has served as president, and a member of the American Medical Association. He was also a member of the first State Board of Registration that attended to the registration of medical practitioners in Michigan; is chairman of the committee on colleges and standards and sole examiner in surgery. He has served as surgeon of the Nichols Memorial Hospital of Battle Creek. In political matters he is a stanch Republican.

Fraternally, Dr. Alvord is connected with A. T. Metcalf Lodge, F. & A. M., is past high priest of Battle Creek Chapter No. 19, R. A. M., past commander of Battle Creek Commandery No. 33, K. T., and a member of the Shrine, at Grand Rapids. He is a member of the Loyal Legion, of Detroit, the only other member from Battle Creek being Col. Hale, a sketch of whose life also appears in this work. He is past commander of Farragut Post, Grand Army of the Republic. Dr. Alvord examined nearly all of the boys who left Battle Creek for service during the Spanish-American war, has been a member of the State Medical Board since the passage of the law authorizing it in 1899, and is an enthusiast along the line of improved standards in medical education. This is the only board in America that is recognized by the medical bodies of Europe. Dr. Alvord formerly belonged to the Athelstan and Country Clubs in Battle Creek, but as only a part of his time is now spent in the city he has given up his membership. At this time he is employed by the government as a member of the board of pension

Hosted by Google

examiners, and he is also medical examiner for more than twenty life insurance companies. Dr. and Mrs. Alvord are consistent members of the First Presbyterian church.

In 1861 Dr. Alvord was married (first) to Miss Eliza Barnes, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and four children were born to this union, of whom two are living: Grace, now the widow of the late T. J. Kelleher, of Battle Creek, mentioned elsewhere in this work; and Dr. William Roy, of Detroit, Michigan, a practicing dentist. These two children were born at Clinton, Lenawee county, Michigan. Mrs. Alvord died June, 1877, and in 1878 Dr. Alvord was united in marriage with Miss Fannie R. Little, of Grinnell, Iowa, who died in August, 1901. Two children were born to this union: Louise, who was born and education in Battle Creek, and Grinnell, Iowa, and here married in 1906 to Paul Plato Meyers, of Grinnell, Iowa; and Max, born May 25, 1910, in Battle Creek, who died May 25, 1910. Dr. Alvord's third marriage occurred July 25, 1902, when he was united with Mrs. Addie S. Anderson, widow of the late Dr. Anderson, and a niece of Dr. Alvord's first wife. Mrs. Alvord is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Dr. and Mrs. Alvord now spend the winter months at St. Petersburg, Florida, and their summers at their beautiful home at No. 29 Wendell street. They are widely known for their many charities, liberally contributing to all movements which have for their object the advancement of education, morality and good citizenship. Their home is a center of culture and refinement and no family in Battle Creek has more valued friends.

GEORGE A. DYKEMANN. Among the successful young business men of Battle Creek, George A. Dykemann has won a place solely as the result of his industry and perseverance, without any of the aids and advances which fortune or family often extend to young men when beginning their careers.

Mr. Dykemann was born in this city on the 12th of December, 1876, a son of Albert and Agnes (Richardson) Dykemann. As a boy he had only limited opportunities for acquiring an education, and to his experience and his own efforts he owes more than to the schools. At an early age he began to labor, and has always been known as a hard worker. By trade he is a machinist, and he learned it during several years of employment in the Grand Trunk shops of this city. Then for five years he was connected with the Duplex Printing Press shops, and his last work at his trade was in the tool room of the Advance Thresher Company, now the Rumley Company.

Mr. Dykemann bought property at the corner of Lake and Prairie avenues when this plat of the city was first placed on sale. Here in 1903 he built the residence where his family make their home, and in 1908 on the same ground he built a store building, and in the following year put up a barn. This is now a fine property, in a good residence neighborhood, and on the Lake avenue car line. On the 8th of April, 1908, he began business as a grocer in his store building, and during the past four years has built up one of the best grocer trades in the city. He prides himself on keeping a clean store, modern and sanitary in arrangement, with a first-class stock, and his trade has been gained by reliable dealing at judicious prices.

Mr. Dykemann gives a good citizen's attention to local and general government and politics, but votes only for the best man without regard to party. He and his wife are members of the First Presbyterian church of this city. He was married on the 14th of July, 1902, to Miss Mary R. Rall. Her father, the late J. H. Rall, was for a number of

Hosted by Google

years well known as a wagon maker of this city and conducted a good shop and had a prosperous business. Her mother, who is still living, is Mrs. Josephine E. Rall, whose home is on Upton avenue. Mrs. Dykemann is a graduate of the Battle Creek high school with the class of 1896, and is now one of the teachers in the No. 4 city school. They were married in Marshall, this county. Their home is on the corner of Prairie avenue at No. 630 Lake avenue, and the store is 16 Prairie avenue West.

MYRON LA MONT. Men of integrity and courage who have a capacity for business and are willing to strike hard blows seldom fail of the merited reward of their labors. Though there is no fixed formula for success, so there are no obstacles which undaunted resolution and industry cannot surmount. Myron La Mont, an agriculturist of Sheridan township, started in life with but his own resources to assist him in making his way, and today his comfortable farmstead of 100 acres, with a pleasant country residence thereon, is the evidence of his accomplishment.

Calhoun county may claim him as a native son, for he was born in Sheridan township November 29, 1861, a son of David and Caroline (Coykendall) La Mont. Both parents were natives of New York, the father born in 1813 and the mother in 1822. David La Mont came to Michigan in 1845 and bought a farm of eighty acres, on which he afterward resided until his death in 1899. He also started in life with no assistance in the way of money and at his death had accumulated a comfortable competence and was accounted a successful man. His parents were natives and life long residents of New York. In politics he was a Republican. There are eight children of David and Caroline La Mont living, namely: Jane, who married A. J. Babcock and resides near Battle Creek, Michigan; Frances, who is the widow of Frank Elliott and resides in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; Orrin, a resident of Albion, Michigan; John and Jenette, twins and both residents of Albion, the latter of whom is now Mrs. William Sabastine; Myron and Myra, twins, the latter of whom married Michael Nolan and resides in Sheridan township; and Emma, who became the wife of John Wiseogle and resides in Albion, Michigan.

Reared on the Sheridan township and educated in the district schools of its vicinity, Myron La Mont began independent activity as a farmer and has since been identified with the industry of agriculture. He bought his present homestead in Sheridan township in 1910, has 100 acres of good land and has a nice country residence.

In 1889 Mr. La Mont wedded Miss Rosie Linebaugh, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Dailey) Linebaugh. Mr. Linebaugh, a native of Pennsylvania, was born in 1842, came to Calhoun county, Michigan from Ohio in 1872 and was a farmer. He died in November, 1910, and had been preceded in death a little more than a year by his wife, who passed to rest in April, 1909. To Mr. and Mrs. La Mont have been born eight children, as follows: Ethel, now Mrs. Albert Root, of Albion, Michigan; Gladys, at home; Florence, deceased; and Bessie, Myrtle, Olive, Marion and Theo, all at the parental home. A Republican in politics, Mr. La Mont served as treasurer of Sheridan township one term, and fraternally he is united with the Modern Woodmen of America.

CHARLES D. BREWER. Noteworthy among the many highly respected and valued citizens of Calhoun county is Charles D. Brewer, a retired dry goods merchant of Marshall, who is descended from an honored

Hosted by Google

pioneer family of that city, and is a worthy representative of one of its earlier settlers. A son of the late Chauncey M. Brewer he was born in the city of Marshall, October 2, 1850. His grandfather, Peter Brewer, a life-long resident of New York state, where his death occurred in 1823, married Emma Marble, a native of Massachusetts. Their son, Chauncey M. Brewer, was born October 11, 1814, in Oneonta county, New York, where he was reared to man's estate. In 1835 he followed the trail of the emigrant westward to Michigan, where he passed the remainder of his life. He married Emily L. Butler, and of his life and work and more detailed account will be found elsewhere in this history.

Charles D. Brewer acquired his rudimentary education in Marshall, after his graduation from the high school further advancing his studies at Olivet College in Eaton county. Then entering his father's store, he continued there as a clerk for three years, becoming thoroughly familiar with the details of the business. In 1875 Mr. Brewer, with his brother, Edgar G. Brewer, assumed possession of the business of Chauncey M. Brewer, their father, and under the firm name of Brewer Brothers built up an extensive and prosperous trade. After a full quarter century of financial prosperity, Mr. Brewer in 1900 sold out his interest in the concern to his partner, who is still conducting the business along the same lines of conservatism which brought the firm so large a measure of prosperity in former years. Since his retirement from mercantile pursuits, Mr. Brewer has devoted all his time and energies to his several farms, which aggregate about one thousand acres. He rents his farms on shares, and thus has time to devote to other personal affairs, his many interests keeping him well occupied.

On October 18, 1878, Mr. Brewer married Miss Anna M. DeWolfe, who was born in New York state, and as a child came to Michigan with her parents. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Brewer, namely: Chauncey M., as plant manager in the employ of the H. M. Byllesby Co., Electrical Engineers of Chicago; Catherine, a graduate of the Marshall high school, and the wife of Murry Irwin, of Jackson Michigan; and Margery with her parents.

Politically, Mr. Brewer supports the principles of the Democratic party, and though never aspiring to office himself, takes an active interest in the election of his friends to positions of public trust. He is a member of the Saint Albans lodge No. 20, F. & A. M., and of Lafayette Chapter, R. A. M.

WILFORD B. LAWRENCE. Naturally a man's success in life is generally measured by his prestige in business, political or social circles, and when he figures prominently in all, then he has accomplished much. In this class stands Wilford B. Lawrence, a successful agriculturist of Clarendon township, a welcome guest in the best homes in his section, and a power in Republican politics in his township, which he is at present representing as clerk. Mr. Lawrence is a native son of Clarendon township, and has the added prestige of being a self-made man. He was born March 9, 1870, on the farm adjoining the one on which he is now carrying on operations, and is a son of Riley H. and Maggie A. (Dutcher) Lawrence.

The paternal grandfather of Mr. Lawrence, William H. Lawrence, was a native of New York, and only came to Michigan as a visitor, but on one of these visits he died. Among his children were several sons who served as soldiers in the Union army during the Civil war. Riley H. Lawrence was born in Sullivan county, New York, in 1844, and his wife in the same section, February 6, 1846. They became the parents

Hosted by Google

of five children: Charles V., who is engaged in farming in Clarendon township; Wilford and Milford, twins the latter of Homer township; Minnie R., who died in April, 1911; and Peter G., a clerk in the Michigan Central Railroad office at Elyria, Ohio. After their marriage in New York, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence came to Michigan, in 1869, and after spending one year in Springport came to Clarendon township, where Mr. Lawrence purchased forty acres of land. To this he added from time to time, and also sold parts thereof, and at the present time is the owner of eighty-seven acres. During the past ten years he has lived retired, enjoying the fruits of a life of industry and activity. In politics he is a Republican, and at various times has held township office, always so conducting his affairs as to win the fullest confidence and esteem of the people of his community.

Wilford B. Lawrence was educated in the district schools and was reared to the vocation of an agriculturist, his leisure, time being spent in the work of the home property. He continued to remain on the home property until his marriage, in 1894, at which time he purchased the farm adjoining his present land, at that time a tract of sixty-five acres. After residing thereon for six years he disposed of that property and purchased the 145-acre farm on which he is now carrying on operations. As one of the men of his community who have been the architects of their own fortunes, he well merits the esteem and respect in which he is universally held, and is everywhere conceded to be an able and efficient agriculturist. Mr. Lawrence's land shows the presence of good management, comparing favorably with any of its size in this section of the county, but during his operations he has found time to act in public capacities. A stanch supporter of Republican principles, he has demonstrated his ability in the office of township clerk, to which he was elected in 1909, and has also been a member of the school board for the past nine years. In 1900 and 1901 he won township treasurer and was census enumerator in 1900,

On November 28, 1894, Mr. Lawrence was married to Miss Nellie Church, daughter of Albert D. and Minnie A. (Dibble) Church, retired farming people of Clarendon township, and four children have been born to this union: Herbert C., Vara M., Elsie E. and Wilford A., all at home. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

WILLIAM BOYD, one of the oldest and most respected citizens of Sheridan township, first touched American soil as an Irish lad of eleven years when his parents emigrated from the Emerald Isle in 1851 and followed the path of the western stars. After two years' sojourn in New York the family came to Lenawee county, Michigan, and from thence Mr. Boyd came to Calhoun county, where he has now resided nearly forty-five years, a citizen of unquestioned standing.

Born in County Antrim, Ireland May 30, 1839, he is the fourth of five children that came to Samuel Boyd and Jane (Kyle) Boyd, both natives of Erin's soil. In 1851 Samuel Boyd came with his family to America and first located in New York, but in 1853, after two years there, he came to Lenawee county, Michigan. Here William Boyd received a common school education and then started out in life for himself. He purchased land in Lenawee county, but in 1868 he disposed of his holdings there and came to Calhoun county, locating on his present farm in Sheridan township which has since been his home. His parents came with him to Calhoun county and here died. He has 200 acres, a large portion of which he cleared from the stump, and on it he has placed splendid improvements in the way of a fine brick coun-

Hosted by Google

try residence, fine barns and such other buildings as are appurtenant to a well equipped farm property. Dairying is his principal line of agricultural industry, and his farm is now largely managed by his son John L. Broadly speaking, there are two kinds of heroes: those who win victories for their country and fame for themselves as soldiers and those who remain at home battling each day with trials and adverse circumstances, without plaudit for their victory and ofttimes without the knowledge of those nearest them. When the Civil war broke out David Boyd donned the Blue, while William his brother, at his solicitation, remained at home to care for their parents. David Boyd, was a student in the University of Michigan when hostilities began, and went from there to the front as a member of the Eighteenth Michigan Infantry. He afterward became captain of a company in a colored regiment and saw the most of his service in the vicinity of Nashville, Tennessee. He returned to the university after the war and graduated.

On December 2, 1864, William Boyd was united in marriage to Margaret T. Boyd, who, although also a native of Ireland and bearing the same surname, was not a relative of Mr. Boyd. Her parents never came to America. Mr. and Mrs. Boyd were the parents of seven children, as follows: Samuel K., now living in Greeley, Colorado; A. T. Boyd, a resident of Albion, Michigan; Vander H. Boyd, who resides in Homer, Michigan; John L., who has the management of the home place; Maude E., now Mrs. John R. Boyd, of Albion; William E., engaged in the wood and coal business at Marshall, Michigan; and Lee, a graduate of the Michigan Agricultural College. Mrs. Boyd died July 6, 1907, a consistent member of the Presbyterian church.

Although his first vote was cast for Lincoln, Mr. Boyd is now a Democrat, his change in political parties having been made at the time of the free silver movement. He served several years as township supervisor and has also served as treasurer, clerk and highway commissioner of Sheridan township. In 1901 and 1902 he represented his district in the State Legislature. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Presbyterian church and he has so lived that his name will go down in history supported with all the attributes of a well spent life and an honorable career.

Edson D. Booth. The growth and development of Calhoun county has been rapid and sure, and its present general prosperity, especially in agricultural circles, is due to the efforts of progressive citizens who have been steadfast and earnest in their efforts in behalf of their section's interests. One who has made his home in this section for a number of years and holds prestige among the farmers of Clarendon township is Edson D. Booth, who is cultivating a tract of 107 1-2 acres, and also owns sixty acres in Eckford township. Mr. Booth was born in the northwestern part of Caldwell county, Missouri, March 25, 1872, and is a son of Allen N. and Sarah (Butler) Booth, natives of Ontario county, New York, where the father was born in 1844 and the mother two years later. They were married in New York in 1865 and in 1867, with one child, moved to Caldwell county, Missouri, where they resided on a farm until 1882. In that year the family, there being now seven children, came to Michigan, settling on a farm in Eckford township, Calhoun county, where Mr. Booth purchased eighty acres of land and engaged in farming until the last years of his life. He eventually retired to Homer, and there passed away April 9, 1903, and his widow still resides at that place. Mr. Booth was a Democrat in political matters, and a member of Humanity Lodge No. 29, of the Masonic order.

Hosted by Google

Edson D. Booth received his education in the country schools of Eckford township, and as a youth was brought up to agricultural pursuits, assisting his father on the home farm until he reached his majority. At the age of twenty-one years he started out to make his own way in the world, purchasing a tract of sixty acres which adjoined the farm of his father, and there carried on operations until he was thirty years of age. In 1902 he was married to Miss Bertha Rogers, daughter of Albert and Martha Rogers, leading farming people of Clarendon township, and two children have been born to this union: Norman and Martha. After his marraige Mr. Booth rented a farm from his father-in-law for one year, and then returned to his old home for three years, at which time he purchased the homestead of Mr. Rogers, where the latter had been born and spent his whole life. Here Mr. Booth has made numerous improvements, erecting new buildings throughout, including two large barns and silos, as well as a tenant house, and has rebuilt the residence and put new fencing around the entire property. His land is well stocked with cattle, sheep and hogs of the finer grades, nearly all of the land is under cultivation, and in general appearance the tract is one of the finest in the township. Mr. Booth still owns the sixty-acre tract in Eckford township, this being occupied by a tenant.

In his political views Mr. Booth is a Democrat, but he takes only a good citizen's interest in public matters. Both he and Mrs. Booth are consistent members of the Baptist church, and fraternally he is connected with Humanity Lodge No. 29, F. & A. M., at Homer, and the Modern Woodmen of America. Like his father he has always been identified with the best interests of the county, and the people of his township have every reason to be glad that such progressive and enterprising men as those belonging to this family have been numbered among its residents.

ARTHUR J. WHITE. To some men is given the foresight that understands the drift of the times and is able to prognosticate future events, and happily they are also sometimes blessed with the initiative ability to carry out the plans which their keen vision inspires. Such a man is Arthur J. White. He it was who saw the immense advantages that would accrue from the establishment of street railway systems in several of the prosperous cities of Michigan, and he set to work to prove this to the people, who were somewhat dubious by building these railways. He was the first to build lines in Muskegon, Jackson and Battle Creek. He was also the first man to put electric lights in at Battle Creek. Why did he have a broader vision than most of the men of this time? Very likely because he had traveled very widely, in our own country, in Europe and elsewhere, and he had fully realized that progress was being made in other places, and that it was time to take some radical steps at home did Michigan wish to "keep up with the procession." He realized from the growth of other parts of the country, that if this section of the state wished to grow she must take bold steps, she must be able to offer inducements to homeseekers who might pass her by and go further west. He is now retired, and lives on his farm near Battle Creek, and everyone feels that he has well earned his hours of rest.

Prattsville, Green county, New York, was the birthplace of Arthur J. White. The son of James B. and Julia L. (Vandenburg) White, he was born on the 8th of April, 1846. His father was born in Ireland, and came to this country when he was a child. As a youth he learned the tanner's trade, and he became prosperous enough to go

Hosted by Google

into business for himself. He came in time to own a large tannery at Prattsville, New York. He retired some years before his death, which occurred in Pennsylvania. He was the son of Doctor Alexander T. White, who was a surgeon in the Army of Great Britain for thirty years. In politics James B. White was a Democrat. He married Julia L. Vandenburg. She was a daughter of John I. Vandenburg, and was born at Lexington, Green county, New York. Her father was a native of Holland, and had come to this country as a young man. He was a farmer and lived out his life in New York state.

Arthur J. White received his education in a seminary at Franklin, New York. Obliged to earn his own living rather early in life, he took the first position that offered, which chanced to be that of baggage master on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railway. He was later made conductor, and spent altogether six years with this road. For some time he had wished above every thing else that he might have an opportunity of seeing more of the country, and presently he found an opportunity to gratify this wish in a rather unusual way. He joined the circus of P. T. Barnum, as ticket seller, and treasurer. He worked for the great showman for three years visiting every place of any size in Europe, and seeing much of it in the most interesting way, afoot. He was extremely successful in this line of work and received the only medal given for ticket selling at the World's Fair in Chicago, thus becoming the champion ticket seller of the world. After his years of wandering life he was ready to settle down for a time, and went to Minneapolis as private secretary to the president of the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway. He remained in Minneapolis for some time, but the thirst for excitement and the need of change were too strong for him, so he determined to go to Central America. He had enough thrilling experiences in this almost unknown country, at that time, to form a plot for a dime novel. His purpose was to hunt for gold, but before he reached his destination, he was shipwrecked, and then began his search for civilization. He walked from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, without encountering a white person. The natives were kind to him on the whole, but the journey was full of hardships, and of dangers which he scarcely realized. It was with the happiness of the drowning man that he came to the seacoast and to the town where the American consul resided. This official was very kind to him, and he will ever be remembered by Mr. White. Never before had he appreciated the glory of the Stars and Stripes, or been so thankful that he was an American citizen.

Upon returning to America, he went back to Minneapolis and worked in that city for ten years. He was quite successful, and in addition to his financial prosperity, he gained a good knowledge of the ways of the business world, and of the thoughts and methods of business men. Therefore when he came to Jackson, Michigan, he was prepared to venture bigger things than he had ever dared before. It was 1880 that he completed his first venture, the building of the first street railway in the city. He then went to Muskegon, where he duplicated this feat, in connection with Mr. H. H. Brown. He later built the first railway in Battle Creek, of which he was the sole owner, for three years. As has been mentioned he put the first electric lights into the city, and has since been ever ready to advocate any progressive moves such as these. Fourteen years ago Mr. White went to the Klondike region, on a prospecting trip, but he only remained a short time.

Mr. White is now retired, and lives alone on his beautiful farm, about a mile from Battle Creek. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of land, and the buildings upon it have been built with an eye not

Hosted by Google

only to utility, but to artisticness and beauty. His home itself is modern, with all the luxuries that the word implies, and is named Maplehurst. In connection with the farm he runs a dairy and breeds blooded cattle. He does not concern himself with any business affairs now, finding that the farm occupies all the leisure time that he has. He started in life with little or nothing. He now looks back at the long road over which he has traveled and wonders how he ever was enabled to accomplish what he did. The answer lies in his own strong will, and in his faith in his own good judgment and in the future of the country. He has never desired a prominent place in the political world, and contents himself with casting his vote at the polls.

Mr. White married Anna M. Williams, a daughter of James Williams, who owned the Williams House in Battle Creek. Mr. Williams came to Michigan from Rome, New York, reaching here with fifty dollars in his pocket. He settled at Abscota, Michigan, where he cleared land for a farm. He later came to Battle Creek, where he built the Williams House, and where he lived until he died. He was very successful in his business, and was able to give his daughter many advantages. She was well educated and was not only a woman of unusual intellect but also was a gifted artist. She was known all over the country, and her death on the 1st of March, 1909, was a great loss not only to her family and immediate friends but to the country at large.

FRANK M. RATHBUN. A life marked by large and worthy achievement and exalted integrity of purpose was that of the late Frank M. Rathbun, who was long numbered among the prominent and influential business men of Battle Creek and whose services in behalf of the city and its people entitle him to enduring honor. He ever held to the things that were good and true and his high ideals found exemplification in all of the relations of his active and useful life. He served as mayor of Battle Creek and held other positions of public trust, and few have there been who have taken a deeper or more helpful interest in the social and material advancement of the thriving metropolis of Calhoun county. Secure in the unqualified confidence and esteem of the entire community, Mr. Rathbun continued as one of the essentially representative citizens of Battle Creek until his death, which was the direct result of a pitiable accident, the details of which have been noted in the following statements: "On December 29, 1893, Mr. Rathburn left his home, in good health, and entered the store of Ranger & Farley. He made his way toward the office, beside which was the unguarded opening of the freight elevator. In the darkness he did not realize his danger, and he stepped into the opening, through which he fell into the basement of the building. Besides sustaining a broken leg he received internal injuries, and, while conscious but a few hours thereafter, he survived two days. He passed away at eleven o'clock on the night of December 31, 1893, just as the old year was passing out."

Frank M. Rathbun was born in Laurens township, Otsego county, New York, on the 20th of November, 1844, and was a scion of a family that was early founded in the old Empire state, the original representatives of the name having settled in New England in the colonial era of our national history. His parents continued to reside on their homestead farm, in Otsego county, until the close of their lives, and there the subject of this memoir was reared under the sturdy discipline which was a concomitant of agricultural industry in the locality and period. He was afforded the advantages of the common schools and upon attaining to his legal majority he went to the city of Poughkeepsie, New York, where he completed a full course in the old and celebrated East-

Hosted by Google

man Business College, in which he was graduated. After his return to the home farm he found that conditions and opportunities did not satisfy his ambition, and having received from his cousin, Henry Potter, who has established a home in Battle Creek, he decided to come to Michigan, where he felt assured of opportunities for the gaining of success and independence through his own powers and efforts, as his financial resources were very limited. He came to Battle Creek about the time of the close of the Civil war, and his first employment was in the lumber yard of the firm of Potter & Gilman. After a period of six months he gained advancement and in the meanwhile he formed the acquaintance of William H. Mason, who was employed in the same yards. Finally, in 1867, these two ambitious young men formed a partnership and effected the purchase of the lumber yard and business, the yard having been at the time situated on the site of the First Presbyterian church. When he initiated his independent business career Mr. Rathbun's available capital was about five hundred dollars, and he effected a loan of a sufficient amount to cover the remainder of his share of the purchase price of the business, in which connection he assumed the obligation of paying interest on the loan at the rate of ten per cent. The firm of Mason & Rathbun continued operations under this title until James Green was admitted to partnership, whereupon the title was changed to Mason, Rathbun & Company. The enterprise was continued in the original location until 1883, when the same was removed to a larger and more eligible site, on South Jefferson street. Mr. Rathbun continued his active identification with the business until the time of his death. Diligence, progressive policies and keen business acumen were salient features in his career and brought to him large and definite prosperity, as well as prestige as one of the most substantial business men of his adopted city. At the time overtures were made for establishing in Battle Creek the manufacturing plant of the Advance Threshing Machine Company, Mr. Rathbun was one of the foremost in advocating the enterprise and giving it requisite support, though many other leading citizens considered the venture hazardous or one of questionable value to the city. He became one of the stockholders of the new concern, in which he invested ten thousand dollars, and he became a member of the original board of directors, a position which he retained until his death, the while he had the satisfaction of seeing the enterprise develop into one of the largest of the kind in the Union and to prove one of the most valuable agencies in furthering the industrial and commercial progress of Battle Creek. The scope of the enterprise may be appreciated when it is stated that the plant and business were sold, in December, 1911, to the Rumley Company, of New York city, for a consideration of more than three million dollars.

Mr. Rathbun also gave his influence and ready co-operation in the support of other enterprises and measures projected for the general good of the community. He was a member of the directorate of the Citizens' Electric Light Company and was a stockholder in various other local corporations.

Ever unswerving in his allegiance to the cause of the Democratic party, Mr. Rathbun became one of its leaders in Calhoun county and was an effective advocate of its principles and policies. He served for several years as a member of the city board of aldermen and also as supervisor of Battle Creek township. He was elected mayor of the city, and he gave a most progressive, businesslike and popular administration of municipal affairs. He served one term and within his regime were compassed many permanent improvements of value. He was a member of the board of aldermen, as representative from the

Hosted by Google

Second ward, at the time of his death. Mr. Rathbun was a most consistent and earnest member of the Independent Congregational church in Battle Creek, as was also his wife, and he was a member of its board of trustees at the time when he was summoned to the life eternal. He was one of the organizers and a charter member of the Athelstan Club, and was affiliated with the local organizations of the Knights of Pythias and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. From an appreciative estimate published at the time of his death are taken the following extracts, with minor paraphrase: "Mr. Rathbun was a very popular man in Battle Creek, his social nature and affable disposition winning him many friends. His honor in business, his fidelity in public office and his devotion to his friends were qualities which greatly endeared him to his fellow men and made his example one well worthy of emulation. When the news of his death was received the prearranged festivities of New Year's day in Battle Creek were all postponed, and his death was the cause of deepest mourning throughout the city.

On the 10th of November, 1870, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Rathbun to Miss Mary Hughes, who was born in Brady township, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, on the 12th of September, 1851, and who was a daughter of William and Emma (Prindle) Hughes, both of whom were born and reared at Elmira, New York, where their marriage was solemnized and whence they came to Michigan about the time that the state was admitted to the Union (1837). They settled in Battle Creek when the future metropolis of Calhoun county was scarcely more than a forest hamlet, with primitive log cabins, and later they removed to Kalamazoo county, where Mrs. Hughes died at the age of forty-two years. Mr. Hughes passed the closing period of his life in Battle Creek, where he died in 1882, at the age of seventy-six years. He was one of the sterling pioneers of southern Michigan and was well known throughout this section of the state. A better record concerning Mrs. Rathbun could scarcely be given than that which appeared in a Battle Creek paper at the time of her death, which occurred at her old home, at 48 West Fountain street, on the 11th of June, 1911, and with but slight change the estimate is perpetuated at this juncture:

"Mrs. Rathbun was but eight years of age at the time of her mother's death, and was reared under the care of a sister, Mrs. Selina Wandell, who survives her. The Wandell family came to Battle Creek forty-four years ago. With them came the young woman, Miss Mary Hughes, and here began the acquaintanceship which culminated in her marriage to Mr. Rathbun. During her young womanhood the decedent was very popular, because of her sunny and gentle disposition and her cheerful and kindly manner. These qualities matured and strengthened with the passing years, enabling the possessor to draw around her a choice circle of friends, who remained such through life and who will ever cherish in loving memory this noble woman. The young Mrs. Rathbun was especially agreeable, ever catholic in attitude and charitable in expression. She will be deeply mourned not only by a wide circle of acquaintances but also in the vicinity of the home which she has graced these many years and whose doors were always open to hospitality, graciously dispensed. Though not devoted to social matters Mrs. Rathbun held an enviable place in these realms, yet found time to attend to religious duties and those acts of charity which made her so beloved, no one seeking sympathy or aid having been denied the same by her. A loving wife, mother and friend has gone to the reward made sure through good deeds and the discharge of every obligation. She is survived by two sisters,—Mrs. Selina Wandell, of this city, and Mrs. George Wilson, of Bellaire, Antrim county."

Hosted by Google

Mr. and Mrs. Rathbun became the parents of four children, concerning whom the following brief data are entered in conclusion of this memoir: Luella R. is the wife of George H. Williams, of Battle Creek; Stephen J. is individually mentioned on other pages of this volume; Frank J. is associated with the White Automobile Company, of Cleveland, Ohio; and Earl H. is in the employ of the Vogue Publishing Company, in New York city. All of the children were born and reared in Battle Creek and all were afforded the advantages of the University of Michigan.

STEPHEN J. RATHBUN. Holding precedence as one of the representative business men and progressive and public-spirited citizens of Battle Creek, Mr. Rathbun has been a resident of this city from the time of his birth to the present and is a scion of one of the old and honored families of the fine metropolis of Calhoun county, where he is now treasurer of the Rathbun & Kraft Lumber & Coal Company, one of the most extensive concerns of its kind in the county. He is a son of the late Frank M. Rathbun, who was long one of the most honored and influential citizens of Battle Creek and who was intimately identified with the civic and industrial upbuilding of the city. To this sterling citizen a special memoir is dedicated on other pages of this work, so that further reference to his career and the family history is not demanded in the present connection.

Stephen J. Rathbun was born in Battle Creek on the 21st of September, 1876, and in his youth he fully availed himself of the advantages of the excellent public schools of his native city, after which he completed an effective course in Krug's Business College, which was then one of the well ordered educational institutions of the kind in southern Michigan. After his graduation in this college Mr. Rathbun assumed the position of bookkeeper for the Advance Thresher Company, of Battle Creek, in which his father was an interested principal, and he remained with this concern, now known as the Rumley Company, for three years.

In 1896, at the time of the organization of Company D of the Second Regiment of the Michigan National Guard, Mr. Rathbun became a member of the same, as a private, and in 1898, at the inception of the Spanish-American war, he enlisted with his company and regiment in the United States service, the regiment being mustered in as the Thirty-second Michigan Volunteer Infantry. The command was mobilized at Island Lake, Livingston county, and thence proceeded to Tampa, Florida, where Mr. Rathbun was promoted to the office of corporal of his company. The regiment was assigned to General Shafter's command but did not go to Cuba, as its transport vessel became disable just at the time when needed. Under these conditions the command was ordered to Fernandina, Florida, whence it later proceeded to Huntsville, Alabama, from which point it finally returned to Island Lake, Michigan. The members of the regiment found it a matter of deep regret that they had not been able to take part in the active military operations on the stage of conflict. Mr. Rathbun received his honorable discharge in September, 1898.

Upon his return to Battle Creek Mr. Rathbun became bookkeeper for the lumber firm of Mason, Rathbun & Company, of which his father had been one of the organizers and was a member until the time of his death, in 1893. In January of the following year he became associated with Arthur J. Kraft in the purchase of the business, and thereupon the concern was incoporated under its present title, the Rathbun & Kraft Lumber Company. The officers of the company are as here

Hosted by Google

noted: Fred Wells, president; Edwin Henning, vice-president; Stephen J. Rathbun, treasurer; and Arthur J. Kraft, secretary. The company has a well equipped planing mill, for general work and for the manufacturing of interior finish, sash, doors, blinds, etc., and deals extensively in lumber, lath and shingles, as well as hard and soft coal and genuine gas coke, besides cement and lime, brick and plaster. The office and yards are located on McCamly street south, and the office number is 57. The concern controls a business that is not exceeded in scope and importance by any of similar character in southern Michigan, and its high reputation for effective service and fair and honorable dealings constitutes its best commercial asset. Mr. Rathbun is essentially alert and progressive as a business man and is one of the prominent and influential figures in the industrial and commercial activities of his native city, where his personal popularity is of the most unequivocal order, his circle of friends being coincident with that of his acquaintances.

Reared in the faith of the Democratic party, Mr. Rathbun has found his mature judgment such as to beget a continuous allegiance to the same, and he has been one of the active workers in the local ranks of his party, which he has frequently served as a delegate to conventions, both county and congressional, and in 1899 he was appointed alderman from the second ward, to succeed his business associate, Mr. Kraft, who removed from that ward to another part of the city. He served during the unexpired term and did not become a candidate for re-election. Mr. Rathbun was chairman of the city board of health during the time, in 1899, when the smallpox epidemic was raging in Battle Creek, and he was indefatigable in his efforts to check scourge through practical and insistent measures of isolation and care. In the autumn of 1902 he was made the Democratic nominee for representative of his district in the lower house of the state legislature, and he made a most effective canvass, with the result that his personal popularity and the favorable impressions he made in this specific connection caused him to run far ahead of his ticket, though from the start he had no expectation of being able to overcome the large and normal Republican majority. Mr. Rathbun was reared in the faith of the Congregational church, his parents having been prominent members of the Independent church of this denomination in Battle Creek, but he now attends and supports St. Thomas' church, Protestant Episcopal, of which his wife is a zealous communicant. He is a member of the Athelstan Club, and is affiliated with the local organizations of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and the Knights of Pythias, as well as with the adjunct of the last named, the Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan. In addition to his extensive business interests already noted he is vice-president of the American Motor Company, one of the important industrial concerns of Battle Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Rathbun are most prominent and popular factors in the representative social activities of the community, and their fine modern home, at 59 Orchard avenue, is one of the attractive centers of gracious hospitality in the city.

On the 12th of September, 1899, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Rathbun to Miss Julia Henning Frazer, who likewise was born and reared in Battle Creek and who is a daughter of Sidney and Mary (Henning) Frazer. The late David Henning, maternal grandfather of Mrs. Rathbun, was president of the Battle Creek Gas Company and was one of the honored and influential citizens of the county. To him a specific tribute is dedicated on other pages of this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Rathbun have two children,—David Henning and Mary Louise.

Hosted by Google

ARTHUR J. KRAFT. There are turning points in every man's life called opportunities. Taken advantage of they mean ultimate success. The career of Arthur J. Kraft is a striking illustration of the latter statement. Diligent and ever alert for his chance of advancement, he has progressed steadily until he is recognized today as one of the foremost business men of Battle Creek, Michigan. Here he is held in high esteem by his fellow citizens, who honor him for his native ability and for his fair and straightforward career.

Arthur J. Kraft was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, February 17, 1868, and he has always been a resident of this city. His father, James H. Kraft, during his active business career was engaged in the grain business at Battle Creek. He died June 21, 1896. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary A. White, was born in this city and was a daughter of Dr. William White, whose death occurred in Meadville, Pennsylvania. She passed to the life eternal, September 11, 1891, and both she and her husband are buried in the Oak Hill cemetery. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kraft, namely,—Arthur J., to whom this sketch is dedicated; and Etta, who is the wife of J. D. O. Powers, of Seattle, Washington. Rev. Powers is a minister in the Unitarian church at Seattle, where the family have resided for the past six years. Mrs. Powers was born and educated in Battle Creek, where she was graduated in the high schol. For six years prior to going West she and her husband resided in the state of Maine.

After completing the curriculum of the public schools of Battle Creek, Arthur J. Kraft was graduated in the high school of this city. In 1888 he entered the employ of Mason, Rathbun & Company, serving that concern in the capacity of bookkeeper until 1899, when the firm of Rathbun & Kraft was formed. In 1903 Fred Wells became interested in the business and the same was incorporated, with a capital stock of one hundred thousand dollars, under the name of the Rathbun and Kraft Lumber & Coal Company. Of this thriving concern Fred Wells is president; Stephen J. Rathbun is treasurer; and Arthur J. Kraft is secretary. On other pages of this work appear sketches of the careers of Messrs. Wells and Rathbun. The company are extensive dealers in lumber, lath and shingles, hard and soft coal, and genuine gas coke. They also handle cement and lime and brick and plaster. The office and yard are located at No. 57 McCamly Street, South.

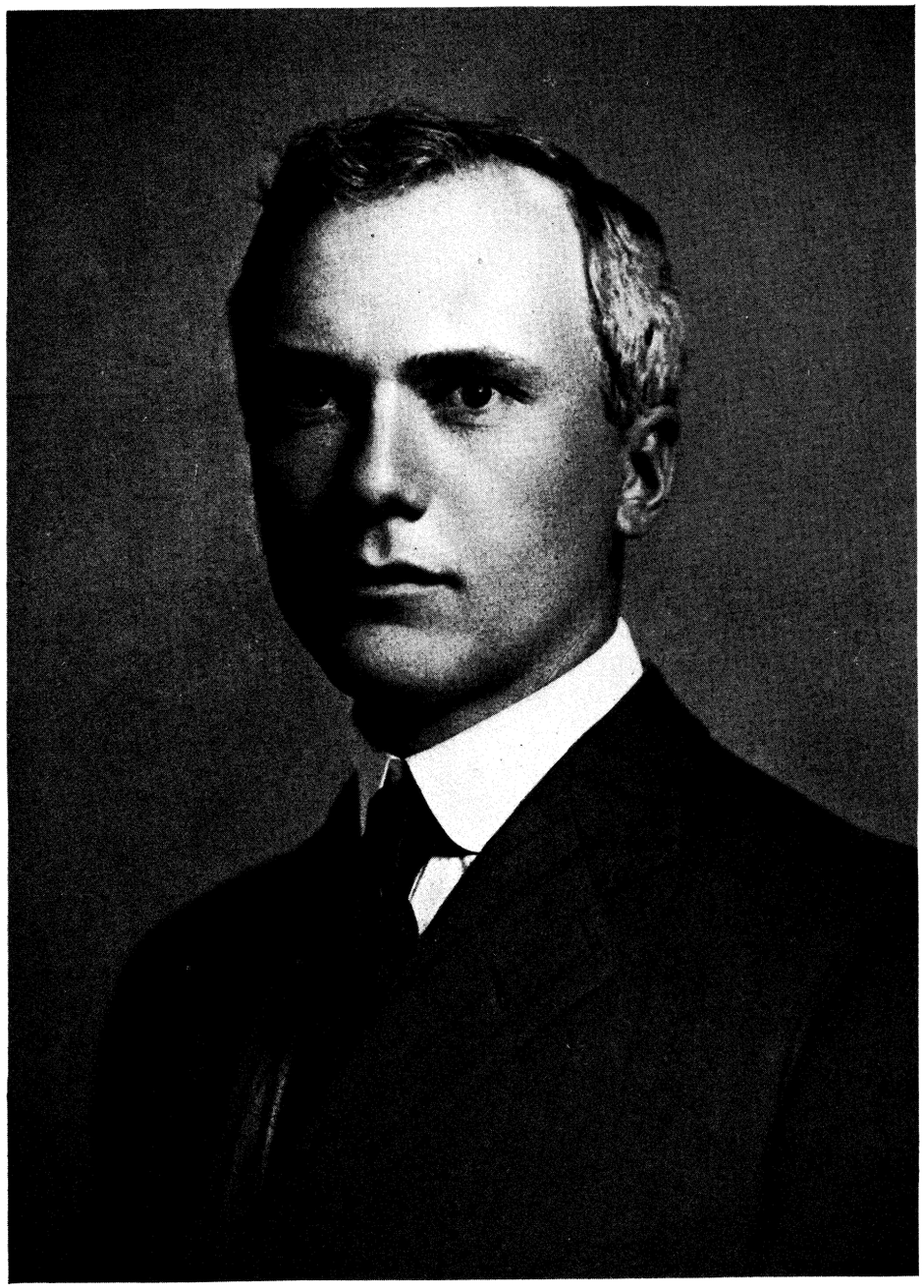
In his political adherency Mr. Kraft maintains an independent attitude. In April, 1899, he was honored by his fellow citizens with election to the city council as a member from the Second ward. He continued incumbent of that office until the following October, when he resigned because of his removal from the ward. He is a charter member of the Elks Lodge at Battle Creek and is also affiliated with the Fellowcraft Club of Detroit.

August 10, 1897, Mr. Kraft was united in marriage to Miss Grace E. Knibloe, who was born at Nunda, New York, and who is a daughter of Gilbert and Sarah Knibloe, of Battle Creek. Mrs. Kraft came to Battle Creek with her parents and here she was reared and educated. Both her parents are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Kraft have two children, —Glen A. and Arthur G., aged, respectively, eleven and ten years. The Kraft home is maintained at No. 11 West Fountain street.

EDGAR F. NYE. Prominent among the best known and most useful citizens of Bedford, Michigan, is Edgar F. Nye, postmaster, who, in this capacity, has during the past ten years rendered prompt, acceptable, and efficient service to the people of the community. A son of the late Willard Nye, he was born, June 6, 1841, in Bedford township,

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



Robert H. Kirschman

Hosted by Google

Calhoun county, coming on the paternal side of excellent New England stock.

Willard Nye was born and educated in Vermont, but subsequently removed to New York state, where he met and married Arvilla Young. Shortly after that important event, he came with his young wife to Michigan, settling, in 1836, in Bedford township, where he worked at his trade of a carpenter and joiner, and also as a farmer. He subsequently engaged in lumbering, putting up the first saw mill erected in Bedford, and finally settling permanently in Barry county, where he improved a good farm, on which he spent his remaining years.

Obtaining his rudimentary education in the district schools, Edgar F. Nye subsequently attended the Battle Creek High School one term. On September 8, 1862, inspired by patriotic enthusiasm, he enlisted in Company A, Seventh Michigan Cavalry, and served with his command until after the close of the conflict, being mustered out December 15, 1865. With his comrades he took part in many engagements of importance, including the battle at Falling Waters, and the Battle of Gettysburg. On returning to Michigan, Mr. Nye bought one hundred and twenty acres of land in Barry county, and in its improvement met with genuine success, in addition to carrying on general farming profitably, making considerable money in raising Short Horn cattle. In 1891, he embarked in the hardware business in Bedford, where he has since resided, although he retained the ownership of his farm until 1905, and his hardware business until that same year. In 1902 Mr. Nye was appointed postmaster at Bedford, and has filled the position continuously since, his long record of service bespeaking the ability and fidelity with which he has filled the position.

A stanch Republican in his political affiliations, Mr. Nye has ever evinced a loyal interest in public affairs, and while living in Barry county was clerk of Johnstown township eight years, and supervisor twelve years. He also served as treasurer of Bedford township two years. After the passage of the Mortgage Census law, he took the mortgage record for his district, which included five counties.

Mr. Nye has been twice married. He married first, in 1862, Agnes Irving, a daughter of William Irving, a pioneer settler of Michigan, and an early farmer. She passed to the higher life in 1891, leaving three children, namely: Claudie, wife of Cyrus Rice, of Lansing, Michigan; Adella E., wife of Flutell Mosier, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Myrta, wife of Verne Doty, of Battle Creek. Mr. Nye married second, in 1892, Agnes Fox, a daughter of William G. Fox, a veteran of the Civil War, who lived in Berry township a number of years, but spent his last days in Battle Creek, Calhoun county. Mr. and Mrs. Nye have one child, Edgar F. Nye, Jr., a student in the public school of Bedford. Mr. Nye has accumulated considerable wealth, owning two houses and lots in Battle Creek, his own home in Bedford, and other property of value.

ROBERT HENRY KIRSCHMAN. Calhoun county has not had a more efficient servant in the office of prosecuting attorney than the present incumbent, Robert Henry Kirschman. It was his proficiency in his profession and his popular citizenship which, in the election of 1910, gave him a majority of 1,422, a larger majority than was received by any other county candidate on the Republican ticket that year.

Unfailing industry and worthy ambition have used the solid natural gifts to bring Mr. Kirschman into prominence in his profession. He was born at Allegan, Michigan, September 13, 1874. His parents, Jacob and Christiana (Oesterle) Kirschman, migrated from Germany to this

Hosted by Google

country, both being young orphan children when they came. The mother died while her son was a student at the University of Michigan. The father was engaged for many years in the manufacture of wagons at Allegan and in Grand Rapids and is now living retired at Muskegon.

At an early age Mr. Kirschman moved with his parents from Allegan to Muskegon where he finished his early education and was graduated from the Muskegon high school in the class of 1894. For a short time he attended the Benton Harbor College. For eight years he was engaged in teaching. This was the intermediate stage of his career,—the period of preparation.

He then undertook to work his way through the University of Michigan, in which effort he was quite successful. He entered the law department of the University of Michigan from which he was graduated in the class of 1907, when he received the degree of "Bachelor of Laws." Along with his other university work he took an active part in the work of the Webster Debating Society, a literary society in which he served as president; he was also a member of the Law Presidents' Club during his university career.

On his admission to the bar he located at Battle Creek where he formed a co-partnership with the late Judge Robert J. Kelley. Kelley & Kirschman was a leading firm until the death of the senior partner, Judge Kelley, since which time Mr. Kirschman has managed a large and growing practice himself. In 1909 his appointment as assistant prosecuting attorney of the county, called his professional services to the public interest. He resigned this, however, after a year, in order to devote his time exclusively to his private practice. Then in 1910 came his election on the Republican ticket to the office of prosecuting attorney, which office he has since filled with marked ability, having recently been re-nominated and re-elected for a second term by a large plurality, running ahead of his party ticket by more than 1,000 votes.

Mr. Kirschman is worshipful master in the A. T. Metcalf lodge No. 419, F. & A. M., and is also identified with the chapter, council and commandery of Masonry. His other fraternal memberships are with Battle Creek lodge No. 33, B. P. O. E., and Battle Creek lodge No. 35, K. of P. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and their comfortable residence is at No. 22 Terrace avenue.

November 15, 1899, Mr. Kirschman married Miss Winifred Alles Fuhrman, daughter of John C. and Margaret (Alles) Fuhrman, of Muskegon. She is a native of Hersey, Osceola county, Michigan, and received her education in the Muskegon high school and at the University of Michigan, while her husband was also a student there. Both her parents are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Kirschman have two children: Robert Everett, born at Houghton, Michigan, and Winifred Alles Oesterle, born at Hersey, Michigan.

ROBERT J. KELLEY. The death of Judge Robert J. Kelley, at Battle Creek, March 8, 1909, closed the career of one of Michigan's leading lawyers and public men. His accomplishments and his personality combined to make him a distinctive character in the life of the state. The closing years of his life were spent in Battle Creek, where he was one of the successful lawyers, and at the time of his death he was the senior partner in the firm of Kelley & Kirschman, the latter being now prosecuting attorney for Calhoun county.

Robert J. Kelley was born at Monroe, Michigan, September 3, 1843. His parents were John and Mary N. (Henderson) Kelley. His father, a native of county Down, Ireland, came to America in 1814, and spent a number of years as a resident of New Hampshire. During

Hosted by Google

his employment in a factory at Dover he met and married Miss Henderson, who was a native of New Hampshire, and about 1838 they came west to Michigan, which was then a new state. He remained a resident of Monroe county until his death in 1868, having for a number of years been engaged in farming. His wife survived until 1871, and at her death left eight children. In 1861, when the Civil war broke out, there were four sons and six daughters in the family. All the sons entered the army, three of them becoming members of the Eighteenth Michigan Infantry, while Robert J. joined the Fifth Michigan Cavalry. Thomas, the eldest, gave his life to the Union, his death occurring near Lexington, Kentucky.

On the old homestead in Monroe county, Robert J. spent most of the years of his boyhood, and was educated in the country schools and the high school at Monroe. At the age of eighteen he became a student at the Ypsilanti Seminary, of which Prof. Joseph Esterbrook was the principal. The following year, September 2, 1862, instead of returning to school work, he enlisted in Company K, of the Fifth Michigan Cavalry. This regiment, which made a notable record, and with the First, Sixth and Seventh regiments of this state constituted General Custer's brigade, the record of which has a place of distinction in the history of the war and was one of the fighting machines that made up the Army of the Potomac. Gettysburg, Brandy Station, Cold Harbor, Trevillian Station, the struggles in front of Petersburg and Dinwiddie courthouse were the most important battles in which Mr. Kelley participated. At the time of Lee's surrender, the Fifth Michigan occupied a place on the extreme left of Grant's army. Then followed the grand review in Washington, and soon afterward the regiment was ordered to Fort Leavenworth, and was finally mustered out in Detroit, July 3, 1865.

After nearly three years of military experience, the young veteran soldier resumed his academic course at Ypsilanti, and having completed it, entered the law department of the University of Michigan, where he was graduated in March, 1868, and soon afterward obtained his license to practice. Becoming a resident of Alpena in 1869, he began a successful career as a lawyer and for many years held a place of large influence in the Republican party. In 1877 the Alpena district sent him as representative to the state legislature. Two subjects of legislation in which he took a very prominent part are events in the history of the state. One was the bill, in the passage of which he was very instrumental, providing for the first state gravel road ever constructed in Michigan. Another was the measure securing the school district organization for each township, whereby the public schools were placed under the central authority of a township board of trustees.

In 1888 his private practice was exchanged for judicial service through his election as judge of the twenty-sixth circuit, which included Alpena, Presque Isle, Otsego and Montmorency counties. At the close of his second term, December 31, 1899, he retired from the bench, and in May of the following year became a resident of Battle Creek, where he was engaged in practice until the time of his death. He was counsel for a number of the larger corporate interests of this city, and was also financially interested in several manufacturing enterprises here.

As a Republican, Judge Kelley long exercised influence that constituted him one of the leaders of the state party. He was a delegate to the national convention which nominated James G. Blaine in 1884. Especially during his later years his law practice was very extensive and he had the choice of a large clientage. He was past master of Alpena lodge No. 199, A. F. & A. M., was past high priest of Thunder

Hosted by Google

Bay chapter, R. A. M., and was afterwards a member of the chapter at Battle Creek, also Battle Creek commandery No. 33, K. T., the Detroit Consistory, and the Moslem Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Detroit. He served as commander of Farragut Post, G. A. R., at Battle Creek, and was also a member of the local lodge of Elks. After his death his extensive and fine collection of legal works was purchased by his partner, Mr. Kirschman, who has thus one of the best law libraries in Calhoun county.

In August, 1872, Judge Kelley married Miss Marion Rutherford, a daughter of Adam Rutherford, formerly a well known citizen of Alpena. The one daughter of this marriage is now Mrs. Mary C. Kelly, of East Orange, N. J. Mrs. R. J. Kelley is now deceased. She was a member of the Episcopal church during her residence in Battle Creek, and her husband was a liberal supporter of that church.

VICTORY P. COLLIER. It would seem as if a prescience had inspired the parents of the Honorable Victory Phelps Collier when they bestowed upon him the cognomen of Victory, for his subsequent career was one long series of victories. He rose to high position in his city, county and state, and never knew from actual experience the meaning of defeat. As a matter of fact, however, his given name was the family name of his maternal grandmother. Mr. Collier was born in Victor, Ontario county, New York, on April 25, 1819. His father was Stephen Collier, an early pioneer of this region. To Victory was accorded such early education as could be acquired in the common schools of Victor, after which he attended for a time the seminary at Lima, New York.

At the age of fourteen, owing to adverse circumstances, the boy was bound over for the sum of $50 a year to work in a dry goods store at Rush, New York. After remaining six months he left with his parents for Michigan on September 25, 1835. The trip was made by canal to Buffalo, thence by steamer to Detroit, five days being occupied in making the journey. At Detroit they secured an ox team and after traveling ten days arrived at Battle Creek, on October 16th. The senior Collier secured the use of two yoke of oxen in exchange for a barrel of salt in the latter part of November, and Victory P. Collier returned to Detroit for a load of household goods, which he succeeded in landing in Battle Creek in December. The weather was very stormy and the cold intense, being coupled with very bad roads, and V. P. Collier never fully recovered from the injury to his health sustained on that journey.

The father located a piece of land four miles south of Battle Creek, which he sold in 1837, moving thence into a log house which stood off the main street of the village. Soon thereafter he bought government land in Barry county, and in the fall moved to Johnstown. As the country was an unbroken wilderness they were obliged to follow an Indian trail from Battle Creek, through Barry county. There were no white inhabitants in the region at that time. Mr. Collier's family was the first in Johnstown, and remained there until 1847. During this time V. P. Collier worked in the woods and was naturally entirely isolated from society.

At the age of twenty he was solicited to teach school, and with many misgivings consented to assume the responsibility. So successful was his pedagogical work during the three winter months that he retained the school during the two winters that followed.

His long, varied and useful public career was inaugurated in 1842 by his election to the office of sheriff of Barry county. He served one

Hosted by Google

term in this office, and was later elected to the positions of school inspector and town clerk.

In September, 1847, when he was twenty-eight years of age, Victory P. Collier left home with only $2.00 in his pocket and came to Battle Creek, where he engaged for $10 a month as salesman in the store of H. Marsh & Company. The firm dissolved partnership in 1849 and Mr. Collier assumed the management of the business in connection with Mr. William Wallace. The latter disposed of his interests in 1855, and the firm became Collier & Coy. Owing to ill-health, Mr. Collier soon thereafter sold his interest to Mr. Coy, but bought it back after his recovery, and the firm became Collier & Wallace, under which designation it continued until 1858, when on account of ill-health, Mr. Collier retired.

In 1861 he engaged in the hardware business and continued in the latter line for fifteen years. He was elected state senator in 1864 and became chairman of the finance committee, which position he retained when re-elected to the senate in 1866. During the first four years of Battle Creek's existence as a city, Mr. Collier represented the fourth ward in the city council. He was elected mayor in 1875 and served one term. During the war his services were invoked as an agent to raise means for filling the quota of troops from Battle Creek. He was a member of the Republican State Central Committee for many years, and did good work for the party. His influence and acquaintanceship extended far beyond the confines of his city and county, and in 1870 he was elected State Treasurer, being re-elected two years later. In 1875, just after completing his second term as state treasurer, he was appointed United States Minister to the Netherlands by President Grant, but declined to accept the office. In 1876 he was United States Centennial Commissioner to the Philadelphia Exposition, representing the state of Michigan. In the spring of that year the President offered him the position of United States consul to Frankfort-on-the-Main, in Germany, which, however, he declined. He was also offered the position of assistant-secretary of the Interior but declined it.

In the spring of 1877 he was elected Regent of the State University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. The day after his nomination he was appointed Regent by Governor Croswell to fill the vacancy then existing, but in August resigned on account of poor health. He was later appointed by Governor Baldwin as one of the inspectors of Jackson prison and filled the position with marked ability. In addition to his public services he was president of the First National Bank of Battle Creek, a position which he filled with dignity and with credit to himself and the institution for twenty-five years.

Mr. Collier was married in October, 1849, to Miss Minerva Pew of Battle Creek, the latter dying in 1861. Five children were born to them. For his second wife Mr. Collier married Mary Fitzgerald, their union occurring on March 18, 1866. They had one child. The second wife died on May 3, 1897. Mr. Collier passed away at his home at 140 Maple street, Battle Creek, June 28, 1898, leaving three sons and one daughter, as follows: William W., now of Pontiac, Michigan; George, since deceased; Victory F., and Mrs. Jessie C. Mechem, the wife of Professor Floyd R. Mechem, of the University of Chicago.

It falls to the lot of but few people to attain the name and fame that were won by Victory P. Collier, and at the same time achieve a lasting place in the hearts of one's fellow citizens. Mr. Collier was prominently identified with Battle Creek for more than half a century and was regarded as one of Michigan's most distinguished men. At the time of his death he had been retired for some years from the scene of

Hosted by Google

his former activities, not through any desire for a life of ease but on account of physical disability. He suffered from blindness and it was the trouble with his eyes that finally terminated his life. He was financially, politically and socially identified with the history of Battle Creek for a longer period than the average life time, and there is no name that is more highly honored.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SPENCER. A man of versatile talents, full of vim and energy, Benjamin F. Spencer, of Tekonsha, Calhoun county, is an accomplished, genial, man, and a royal entertainer, catering to the tastes of the public both as owner and manager of a circus, and as an operator of a motion picture show. A native of Calhoun county, he was born, August 27, 1873, in Newton township, a son of Elijah Spencer. His paternal grandfather, Cyrus Spencer, who married Martha Willea located in Eckford township in pioneer days, and having purchased two hundred and forty acres of land was there employed as a tiller of the soil until his death, at the comparatively early age of fifty-six years.

Elijah Spencer was born, February 21, 1842, in Ohio, and as a boy of eleven years came with his parents to Calhoun county, Michigan, where he assisted his father in clearing and improving a homestead. Choosing farming for his occupation, he resided in Newton township until 1900, when he removed to Clarendon township, Calhoun county, where he is still engaged in his free and remunerative occupation. He married, in 1864, Sarah Wandall, who was born in New York state, June 4, 1841, and of the six children born of their union three are living, Benjamin F. being the youngest child of the household.

Obtaining his preliminary education in the rural schools of his native district, Benjamin F. Spencer subsequently entered the Marshall high school. Much attention was given to the development of his natural musical talents while he was a boy, and after he left the public schools he was sent to Toronto, Canada, where he took a full course in music. Mr. Spencer afterwards taught music for two years at Mullen's Conservatory, in Sarnia, Ontario. The following twelve years he was profitably engaged in the theatrical business, and at the present time is successfully conducting the circus which he owns during the greater part of the year, employing time during the winter seasons teaching music and operating a motion-picture theater.

Mr. Spencer married, in 1901, Maude Crowell, of Thompsonville, Michigan, a daughter of Frank and Beatrice Crowell, her father being a prosperous farmer of Benzie county. Their only child, Ila Spencer, is a pupil in the Tekonsha public schools. Politically Mr. Spencer is a Democrat. Fraternally he belongs to Coldwater Lodge, No. 1023, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; and to the Yeomen of America.

CHARLES AUGUSTUS STARK. A stretch of fair and fertile land that is neat and well-kept as well as productive is doubly a credit to its owner. Such a farm is that on which Charles A. Stark resides and which he manages, the property belonging jointly to him and his brother, A. D. Stark, whose life is reviewed elsewhere in these pages. His parents were George and Catherine Stark, of whom more detailed account is given in the sketch to which we have referred. He first opened his eyes upon life on November 9, 1854, his birthplace being Tompkins county, New York. His earliest years were spent in that eastern state, where his education was begun. He was twelve years of age when the family first sought this region, then practically a virgin wilderness, and the boy had his own share in helping to prepare it for its agricultural purposes, as well as in assisting with the buildings

Hosted by Google

which were erected upon it. Such schooling as he was permitted to receive after the family removal from New York to Michigan was secured in Burlington.

In young manhood Mr. Stark married Miss Clara Amelia Strong, the daughter of Nelson and Hannah (Chittenden) Strong, who were notably prominent farmers of Burlington, and who later removed to Kansas where they passed the remainder of their lives. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Stark occurred in 1879, and three children have come to them. The second of that number, George Nelson, is devoted to the pedagogic profession and is engaged in that work. Katherine Kaola is yet at home with her parents and Luella Clare the eldest, the wife of A. W. Wallis, resides in Litchfield.

Mr. Stark is a Democrat in his political theories, but with regard to local matters, his views take an independent color, with the best good of the community always the uppermost consideration. He is a member of the Maccabees, but beyond that has no other fraternal affiliations.

HON. ARTHUR D. BANGHAM, M. D. Aside from the important work which he has done for humanity in the line of his profession, Dr. Arthur D. Bangham is entitled to distinctive mention in this volume for other reasons. As state senator he has labored with patriotic zeal for the best interests of the commonwealth and has also been active in the promotion of some of the strongest fraternal organizations which have for their object the inculcation of principles which promote brotherly kindness, mutual helpfulness, and which ameliorate many of the hard conditions of life. He is especially prominent and influential in community affairs and his senatorial service has also extended his labors to interests affecting the entire state.

Dr. Bangham is a native son of Calhoun county, his birth having occurred in Marengo township, November 8, 1859. His parents were Sandusky K. and Minerva E. (Hanchett) Bangham. The Bangham family is one of German lineage. Sandusky Bangham was born in York, Washtenaw county, Michigan, and was a son of John Bangham, a native of Newark, New Jersey, who as a young man moved to Somerset, Niagara county, New York, and there married a Miss Mead. After her death he married Mrs. Anna Emmons, who became the mother of Sandusky K. Bangham. John Bangham bought one hundred acres of the Holland purchase and engaged in farming in Niagara county. In his earlier manhood he had followed the trade of a tanner and prior to his marriage served his country as a soldier of the War of 1812. In November, 1834, he removed to Washtenaw county, Michigan, purchasing a slightly improved tract of land upon which he made his home and engaged in tanning until 1845, when he came to Calhoun county and secured a farm in Clarence township, making his home there until his death, and carrying on general agricultural pursuits. His wife, who survived him for some time, died in 1876.

S. K. Bangham was reared upon his father's farm, passing his youth, for the most part, in this county. He acquired a good practical education and after his marriage to Miss Hanchett he located in Marengo township, where he owned a farm upon which his death occurred in August, 1866. His wife was a daughter of David and Mary Hanchett, who were pioneers of Marengo township, coming to this county from Cayuga county, New York. The wife died on the home farm about 1858 and Mr. Hanchett, surviving her for some years, died in Marshall. Mrs. Minerva (Hanchett) Bangham survived her husband many years and never married again. Like him, she was a faithful member of the

Hosted by Google

Methodist Protestant church of Rice Creek, and she died in February, 1903.

Supplementing his early educational privileges, received in the common schools, by a course in Albion College, Dr. Bangham afterward engaged in teaching school and subsequently entered the office of the late Dr. Smiley, of Marshall, Michigan,—one of the leading physicians of this time in southern Michigan. A year later he matriculated in the medical department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and was graduated in 1882 as a member of the first class to complete a three years' course, each year embracing nine months of study. The degree of M. D. was conferred upon him at graduation, and he then entered upon active work of his profession. In the meantime he had received practical experience as one of the clinic assistants to Dr. Frothingham, professor of ophthalmology and otology.

Locating in Dexter, Washtenaw county, Michigan, Dr. Bangham there engaged in practice for a year, after which he disposed of his interests and together with Hon. J. T. Honey and Edwin Bennett, of Dexter, took a trip through the west, visiting Washington, Oregon and California. They investigated the conditions of the west, looking for an opportunity for favorable investment, and spent three months on the Pacific coast. On his return to Calhoun county, Dr. Bangham, in the autumn of 1883, purchased an interest in a drug store at Homer and also located for practice in that place, his professional connection with the town antedating that of any other physician of the locality. Later he became sole proprietor of the store, which he superintended in connection with the duties of a large private practice. He has kept fully abreast of the times in the progress that is being continually made by the medical fraternity and his reading and investigation have covered a wide range. In 1899 he took a post graduate course in the Chicago Polyclinic. Dr. Bangham was constantly called in for consultation, his professional confreres recognizing his ability, and the demands of a large private practice left him but little leisure. He is at present a member of the Calhoun Medical Society, of which he was at one time the president, and he is also a member of the State Medical Society.

Dr. Bangham possesses excellent business ability and keen foresight and in this connection has been the promoter of various interests of importance in trade circles.

In political circles in southern Michigan Dr. Bangham is especially active, prominent and influential, known for one of the leading representatives of the Republican party. While residing in Homer he was for a number of years village trustee and for two terms was village president, during which time the electric light plant was installed and the system of cement sidewalks was adopted, the village paying one-half of the expense of laying the walks. He was president of the Board of Education for one term and championed every progressive educational measure. In the active work of the party his aid has been marked. He was a member of the county executive committee for a number of years, including the period covering the McKinley campaigns. In 1900 he was elected senator from the Ninth District of the state, comprising Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties,—one of the most populous and wealthy districts in the state. He received a plurality of nineteen hundred and six votes, the largest vote given any candidate on the ticket, and assumed the duties of the office January 1, 1901. He was a member of the following committees during that term: Asylum for the Insane at Newberry; Education and Public Schools; Reformatory at Ionia; State Lands; State University; Saline Interests. During that term Dr. Bangham was actively interested in the passage of a number of important bills and was the author of a bill providing for the institution

Hosted by Google

of a psychopathic ward at the University Hospital, which was passed. This ward has been in successful operation for a number of years and is the only one of its kind under state supervision in the United States. The doctor was reelected in 1902 by a generous plurality and in 1903 he was made chairman of the committee on education and public schools and executive business and also on the committees on apportionment, asylum for the insane at Traverse City, industrial school for boys, state lands and the state prison at Marquette. He was the father of an important bill on corporation laws which passed both houses and is now on the statutes as the Bangham bill. He also introduced a bill, and secured its passage, making it possible for each city and village to inspect their slaughter houses and meat supplies, which was received with favor by workers in behalf of improved sanitary conditions throughout the state. He also introduced another bill requiring undertakers to know something of embalming and the proper care of bodies, for the purpose of protecting the public health and for the further purpose of advantageous transportation of bodies. He was the author of the bill of 1901 and amended it in 1903, making this the first law governing undertakers of Michigan placed on the statute books of the state. It is estimated that during his term of service in the senate he has probably secured the passage of as many good bills as any other member of that body. In November, 1903, Dr. Bangham removed with his family to Albion, Mich., in order that his children might have the educational advantages afforded by Albion College, and he there engaged in the active practice of his profession. In 1910 Dr. Bangham was appointed to the position of postmaster of Albion, and he is still the incumbent of that important place. In that, as in all other of his undertakings, he has proved himself a master hand, and the office has never been more capably administered than under his regime. He was for nearly sixteen years a member of the United States pension board of Marshall, and was president of the board for a number of years, when he resigned in 1910 to accept the appointment of postmaster at Albion, Michigan.

On August 26, 1880, Dr. Bangham was married to Miss Estella Austin, of Marengo township, a daughter of Theodore N. Austin, one of the early residents of this county. She completed her education in the Marshall high school. Five children were born to Dr. and Mrs. Bangham. Of that number, the first born, Austin S., died October 21, 1891, at the age of nine years. The others are: Belle D., Harrison A., Flossie E. and Leila Ruth. Mrs. Bangham died Aug. 29, 1905, at her home in Albion. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which the doctor has been a member for many years, as well as holding the office of church steward and being superintendent of the Sunday school. At the time of the completion of the new church parsonage at Homer, then the finest in the conference, he was a member of the building committee. He has always been deeply interested in church work, and the moral growth of the community, and his efforts in that direction have been most beneficial and effective.

The doctor is a man of large social instincts, and his fondness for that phase of life is indicated by his fraternal affiliations. While a resident of Homer he was a member of Humanity Lodge No. 29, F. & A. M., of Homer, and was the master. He was also a charter member of Homer Chapter No. 130, R. A. M., and was High priest of the chapter for more than twelve years. He belongs to Albion Council, R. & S. M.; Marshall Commandery, No. 17, Knights Templar. He was one of the organizers and a member of Stella Chapter No. 140, Order of the Eastern Star, of which he was the first worthy patron, holding the office for six years. His wife was also a member of that chapter. The doctor was

Hosted by Google

a member of Homer Lodge, No. 232, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he is Past Grand; Homer Lodge, No. 88, Knights of Pythias, of which he is Past Chancellor, and he was also one of the organizers of the Maccabee Tent and the Modern Woodmen Camp at Homer. He is Past Commander of the Maccabees Tent.

Since coming to Albion, he has transferred his membership in the fraternal organization to similar organizations in this city, and in addition has become a member of Saladin Shrine, Grand Rapids.

March 24, 1906, Dr. Bangham was united in marriage to Ruth A. Ludlow, daughter of Frank S. and Mary A. Ludlow. Mrs. Bangham is a graduate of Albion high school, Albion College and the University of Michigan. They have one son Frank Ludlow Bangham, born August 2, 1907.

Dr. Bangham's interest in the welfare of the commonwealth is deep and sincere and his legislative course has shown marked familiarity with existing conditions and a close study of many methods of remedy where reform and improvements are needed. He takes an active part in the business which is transacted in the council chambers of the state and his course has ever been above suspicion. The good of the nation he places before partisanship and the welfare of his constituents before self-aggrandizement. In the senate he commanded the respect of every member and at home, in the county of his nativity, where he is best known, he inspires personal friendships of unusual strength, and all who know him have the highest admiration for his strong mentality, his professional skill, his loyalty in citizenship and his devotion to the public welfare.

CARLTON E. CONVIS. A farmer of note and a citizen of unusual loyalty and public spirit in Battle Creek township, Calhoun county, Michigan, is Carlton E. Convis, who is the owner of a fine estate of one hundred and thirty-seven acres located two miles distant from the city of Battle Creek. He is engaged in diversified agriculture and the raising of stock and has achieved remarkable success during his business career.

A native of Calhoun county, Carlton E. Convis was born in Pennfield township, August 21, 1874. He is a son of Samuel and Harriet (Forshey) Convis, the former of whom was born in the state of New York, whence he came to Michigan as a young man, settling on a farm in Pennfield township, Calhoun county, where he resided during the balance of his life time. He had extensive farming interests in this county and from 1874 to 1893 was a heavy stockholder in the Old National Bank at Battle Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Convis became the parents of one child, Carlton E. of this review. F. John Forshey, maternal grandfather of Carlton E. Convis, was born and reared in the state of Indiana. He settled in the vicinity of Harmonia, Michigan, in the early pioneer days and there passed the balance of his life time. He was a man of broad mind and splendid executive ability, took a prominent part in public affairs and was well known throughout the section in which he resided.

Carlton E. Convis was reared and still lives on the old parental homestead, in the work and management of which he early began to assist his mother, as his father died when he was eight years old, and he received his educational training in the neighboring district schools. Most of his attention has been devoted to the growing of grain but he also raises some stock. He has worked at filling silos at odd times and is decidedly a progressive young farmer. In politics he accords an uncompromising allegiance to the principles and policies for which the party stand sponsor and while he has never been incumbent of any pub-

Hosted by Google

lic office he is ever on the alert to advance all measures and enterprises projected for the good of the general welfare. Though not formally connected with any religious organization, he attends and gives his support to the Baptist church at Battle Creek, of which his wife is a member.

In 1897, at Pennfield, Mr. Convis was united in marriage to Miss Clara Lee, a daughter of Alson Lee, who was a prominent resident of Pennfield township, the rest of his life since ten years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Convis have two children, Harriet and Lena Belle, both of whom are now attending school.

CHARLES M. RANGER. In the very early days of the colonial epoch the original American ancestors of Charles M. Ranger, in both the agnatic and maternal lines, were among the citizens of New England, and Virginia colony and in that and each succeeding generation have been found men of virile powers and sterling character. Himself a worthy representative of this old and honored family, Mr. Ranger is now living a somewhat retired life, his activities being confined to the superintending of the old family home, although for many years he was identified with business enterprises in Battle Creek, where he has made his home since 1882. Mr. Ranger was born near Morenci, Lenawee county, Michigan, October 31, 1852, and is a son of Samuel Montgomery and Nancy (Goss) Ranger.

Mr. Ranger's parental great-grandfather, of English descent and a native of Vermont, served as a drummer boy at Concord and Lexington, during the Revolutionary war, and was present at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. His maternal grandfather, Levi Goss, a descendant of Holland Dutch ancestry, who settled in Virginia, participated in the War of 1812. Samuel Montgomery Ranger was born in the State of New York, and as a young man migrated to Michigan, settling on land one and one-half miles west of Morenci, in Medina township, Lenawee county. There he spent his life in agricultural pursuits, his death occurring in 1904, while his wife, a native of Ontario, Canada, passed away in 1888. There were two sons born to them, the younger of whom, Frank N., died unmarried on the old homestead in 1902.

Charles M. Ranger was educated in the district schools of Medina township and the high school at Morenci, subsequently attending the literary department of Albion College, from which he was graduated with the class of 1877, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Qualifying as an educator, he then became principal of the high school at Morenci, a position which he held for two years, and for three years held a like position at Elk Rapids, but in 1882 gave up teaching to embark on a business career. Coming to Battle Creek he entered the furniture and undertaking business in partnership with William D. Farley, under the firm style of Ranger & Farley, an association which continued twenty-eight years and was ended July 1, 1910, when Mr. Ranger, on account of impaired health, retired from the firm. Mr. Ranger had charge of the funeral directing for the firm, and was one of the pioneer arterial embalmers of the state. He was president of the State Funeral Directors Association, and soon after the license law went into effect was made a member of the State Board of Health, an office which he has held during the past ten years. He is also a member of the Conference of Embalmers Examining Boards of North America, of which he served as president one year. In 1889 he was elected a trustee of Albion College and has held that position since, being president of the board of trustees for the past five years. Since selling his interest in the furniture and undertaking establishment, Mr. Ranger has been practically retired from active business, spending the greater part of the time out-

Hosted by Google

of-doors, which he has found very beneficial to his health, and devoting his summers to superintending work on the family farm, a 255-acre dairy farm, of which he is now the owner. His residence is at No. 30 Upton avenue. In political matters a stanch Republican, he has not desired public office, but in 1893 served as a member of the board of education. Fraternally, he is connected with Calhoun Tent No. 54, K. O. T. M. M. of Battle Creek. Mr. Ranger has been a member of the First Methodist Episcopal church here for many years, and for twenty-seven years has been a member of the board of trustees.

Mr. Ranger was married August 20, 1880, in Albion, Michigan, to Miss Lilly N. C. Robertson, who was born in Sheridan township, Calhoun county, Michigan, three miles west of Albion, daughter of Theodore Robertson. She was a graduate of Albion College in 1877 in the same class as Mr. Ranger, and subsequently was employed as a governess and as a school teacher in the Chelsea (Michigan) high school until her marriage. She has taken an active interest in hospital work, being chairman of the Training School Committee for Nurses, and is now second vice-president of the board of trustees of Nichols Memorial Hospital of Battle Creek, and is a member and has been president of the Women's League. Her brother, Dr. Robertson, is a well-known physician and surgeon of Battle Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Ranger have had two children: Carl F., born in Battle Creek, graduated from the high school in 1902, and from the M. A. C. in 1906, having taken a course in Mechanical engineering, and now being employed by the Packard Automobile Company, of Detroit, married Miss Bertha F. Root, of this city; and Miss Genevieve, born in Battle Creek, graduated from the high school in 1905, and from Albion College in 1910, was the teacher of mathematics in the high school at Jackson, Michigan. She was married August 21, 1912, to Samuel B. Moffett of Flint, Michigan. Mr. Moffett is in the wholesale grocery business in Flint.

In the municipal prosperity of his home city, Mr. Ranger has taken a lively interest, and has won, both as business man and citizen, the esteem, confidence and cordial regard of his friends, neighbors and acquaintances everywhere.

Merrick E. Cortright represents the third generation of his name and family who have called Michigan their home state, and the name is further perpetuated by his children and grandchildren. Born in Clarence township, Calhoun county, on March 2, 1861, Mr. Cortright is the son of Clarendon Isaiah and Martha Orceno (Evans) Cortright, the former born in Buttler township, Wayne county, New York, in 1835, the mother being born in the same state in 1837. Clarendon Isaiah Cortright came to Michigan in 1844 with his parents, Simeon and Margaret Cortright, the family settling on a farm near to the place which now represents the home of the Cortright family. Here he was reared to young manhood, the youngest of a family of ten children. He was a farmer all his life, beginning with a farm of eighty acres, to which he eventually added another eighty, and he died on the old homestead in 1903, his widow still surviving and making her home with their son, Merrick E. of this review. Mr. Cortright was inclined to the independent view in politics, and his political activities were ordered accordingly. He was a prominent man in his community, and filled many important offices in the township which for so many years represented his home. He was township supervisor for a number of years and served several terms as township treasurer; he served on the board of highway commissioners for some years and was justice of the peace when he died.

Hosted by Google

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Cortright, the subject being the only one surviving at this time.

Merrick E. Cortright was educated in the district schools of the township of Clarence, and his first occupation was as his father's assistant on the home farm. He was in his father's employ for a number of years, then bought the home farm, to which he added from time to time. He has always been especially prosperous, carrying on a general farming business, and has been and still is one of the prominent men of the township, as men of his name have ever been since the family first became identified with the community. He is a Democrat, and is now a justice of the peace, while he has served on the school board for upwards of twelve years, the results of his presence on that body being noticeable in improved conditions in the school system of the township. Two years ago Mr. Cortright sold one of his farms to his son-in-law, and he still retains a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which he continues to operate.

In 1884 Mr. Cortright married Edna Oakley, the daughter of Hickford Oakley of Clarence township. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Cortright: Vella Kate, now the wife of Albert Hyatt, and living on the old Cortright homestead; they have two children; and Clarendon O., who shares the parental home.

Beyond his membership in the Modern Woodmen of America, Mr. Cortright has no fraternal affiliations.

JOHN WINTER. Twenty-seven years ago, or in 1885, John Winter, a young Englishman yet in his teens, came to this country to push his way a stranger in a strange land. Though the United States has long been famed as a veritable mine of opportunity, yet like the mine it yields its treasures only to those of pluck, resolution and willing endeavor. These were qualities of character that this young man possessed, together with a large capacity for work, and he has not been denied the merited reward. When he reached Michigan he had $2.03 in the way of money; today he owns a farm of 120 acres in Clarence township of Calhoun county free of all indebtedness and with good improvements. All of this has been Mr. Winter's own accomplishment, for he has had no assistance whatsoever save that which came through his own ability and effort. In recent years he has also assisted his father.

John Winter was born in England on April 4, 1867. His father, Albert Winter, was born in England in 1842 and has spent all of his active years there as a workman in a brick yard. He is still living in England. Mary (Mitchell) Winter, the mother of our subject, was born in England in 1839 and passed to the life beyond in 1910. John Winter spent his youth in England and there acquired the most of his education, though he attended a night school some before coming to the United States and after coming to Michigan attended the Dean school in Jackson county. He emigrated from England in 1885 and upon his arrival in Michigan he secured employment in completing the erection of a building. Following that he took up work by the month as a farm hand, continuing thus employed for two seasons, and then began farming on the shares. By industry and frugality he finally saved sufficient means to make a payment on a farm and in 1896 bought his present homestead of 120 acres, going in debt for it to the amount of $4,300. This indebtedness has now all been removed and in 1908 Mr. Winter replaced the former dwelling with a comfortable brick farm house. He has been engaged in general farming and also gives considerable attention to the raising of Shropshire sheep. He has not only proved his ability as an agriculturist and business man, but has also attained high

Hosted by Google

standing and influence as a citizen. He has served as highway commissioner of his township and is now a justice of the peace.

On November 7, 1885, Mr. Winter was united in marriage to Sarah, daughter of Charles and Mariah Booby, both of whom were natives of England. Mr. and Mrs. Winter have five children, namely: Ernest J., now employed on a farm near Albion; William A., who assists on the home farm; Maude, now Mrs. William Miller, of Clarence, Michigan; and Mabel and Theodore R., both at the parental home. In religion Mr. Winter was reared in the Episcopal faith, and in political views he is a Republican. He is a member of his local Grange.

FRANK WATSON ENGLE, who occupies a representative position among the agriculturists of Calhoun county, Michigan, was born on the farm on which he now lives, in Tekonsha township, September 20, 1854, son of James T. and Ella J. (Watson) Engle, early settlers of this township. Further mention of the Engle family will be found on another page of this work, in connection with the sketch of James A. Engle, a brother of Frank W.

Frank W. Engle received his education in the district school near his home and at the Tekonsha high school. Also for a time he attended school at Burlington, Michigan. Farming, has been his life work, though he taught school one term. In 1881, he took over the home place, on a contract from his father, this being the year previous to his father's death. He carried out the terms of the contract, and in time not only paid off the indebtedness, but also bought and paid for a 40-acre tract adjoining his land, making in all one hundred acres, on which he carries on general farming and stock raising. He has an attractive country home, the surroundings of which give indication not only of his prosperity but also of the culture and refinement of his family.

Mr. Engle was married, in 1883, to Miss Patience E. Crandall, daughter of John A. and Melissa Crandall; and they have two children: Earl J., a graduate of the Ypsilanti Normal School, now superintendent of the schools at Brighton, Michigan; Alice Blanche, a member of the June, 1912, class of the Ypsilanti Normal School. Mrs. Engle and her son and daughter are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Engle's father died in 1900, and her mother, Mrs. Crandall, makes her home with them.

Although not a politician, Mr. Engle maintains a deep interest in public affairs and gives his earnest support to the Prohibition party.

ERI COWLES, the eldest child of his parents, was born on the estate of his father, Addison Cowles, in Battle Creek township of Calhoun county, Michigan, on the 13th of March, 1839. Among the representative men of this county he takes appropriate rank, for, as noted above, he is a native born citizen and he is one of its most successful farmers as well. Whether we consider the virtues that adorn character, or the benefits which a useful and successful man confers on his community, the subject of this sketch is equally deserving of mention in this work. His father, Addison Cowles, who was a farmer and pioneer settler in Calhoun county, is mentioned more specifically in the sketch of R. B. Cowles appearing on other pages of this volume. His mother was Mary Wells prior to her marriage. The death of the father when Eri was fourteen years of age threw upon his young shoulders heavy responsibilities, for it devolved upon him to take charge of the home place and to assist his mother in providing and caring for the other children, unselfishly performing this filial duty as long as it was necessary. He eventually came into possession of the old homestead, which is his pres-

Hosted by Google

ent abode, and owns altogether 150 acres of valuable land, the most of which he cleared. He also has made the splendid improvements to be found thereon, making it one of the attractive and comfortable homes of the township. Besides the lines of general farming, Mr. Cowles has given considerable attention and very successfully to stockraising. He was educated in the district schools in the vicinity of his birthplace and for a number of years during the earlier part of his career taught school in this county.

Mr. Cowles has been twice married. His first wife was Salvania Consadine, whom he wedded in 1865. She was the daughter of Daniel Consadine, a native of Ohio and a wagon and carriage maker by trade. In religious faith and membership she was a Presbyterian. Frank R. Cowles is the only child of this union now living and he resides on his father's farm. The second marriage of Mr. Cowles was in 1875 when Miss Elsie Sprague became his wife. She is the daughter of Argalus Sprague and a member of one of Calhoun county's highly respected families that was established here in pioneer days. She is affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church. To their union was born a daughter Grace, now the wife of C. C. Miller, a farmer in Newton township.

In political affairs Mr. Cowles is inclined to be independent in his views and supports those men and measures he deems best suited to promote the welfare of the whole people. Long years of exemplary living and a character unblemished have established Mr. Cowles as one of the venerable and most esteemed citizens of Emmett township, and as such and as a worthy pioneer of the county we are pleased to preserve in this form a brief sketch of his life, thus placing his name among the men who have contributed to the wealth and progress of Calhoun county.

AARON E. BLANCK holds distinctive prestige as one of the most prominent and influential citizens of Battle Creek, Michigan, where he has resided during the greater part of his active career. On account of the impaired condition of his health he retired from business activities in 1905 but up to that time was engaged in the contracting business here. Many beautiful and substantial buildings stand as a monument to his ability and genius as a builder. He was one of the organizers of the Citizens Electric Company and is a stockholder, director and chairman of the executive committee of that concern at the present time, having formerly been incumbent of the offices of president and vice-president of the company. He is also financially interested in the Advance Pump & Compressor Company, the City Bank of Battle Creek; the Michigan Carton Company and the Battle Creek Brewing Company, in addition to which he is the owner of considerable valuable real estate here.

A native of the fine old Keystone state of the Union, Aaron E. Blanck was born in Allegheny township, Venango county, Pennsylvania, February 9, 1847, and he is a son of Samuel W. and Lydia A. (Morris) Blanck, both of whom are now deceased. The father was a farmer in Pennsylvania for a number of years and he also devoted considerable attention to his trade as a carpenter. He was an extensive dealer in lumber and logs and after cutting his timber in the Allegheny Mountains would float it down the Allegheny river to the Ohio river and thence to market in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1864 he removed to Canandaiga, New York, there purchasing a tract of land within corporate limits of the town and engaging in farming. Two years later he established the family home at Dexter, Michigan, and in 1866 he came to Battle Creek and purchased a farm in Emmett township, just two and a half miles east of this city. There he continued to reside

Hosted by Google

during the remainder of his life time, his death having occurred on March 27th, 1879.

Aaron E. Blanck was the fifth in order of birth in a family of eleven children and he received his early educational training in his native place in Pennsylvania. He early began to assist his father in the work and management of the home farm and was also engaged in the lumber woods in the Allegheny mountains. At the age of sixteen years he began to learn the carpenter's trade, under the tutelage of his father. After the removal of the family to Canandaiga, New York, he attended the academy in that place and subsequently to the removal to Dexter he completed his apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade. In 1873 he rented a farm of two hundred and fifty acres of land in Bedford township, Calhoun county, and farmed the same with remarkable success for a period of three years. In 1877 he went to Sacramento, California, where he assumed charge of a ranch of several hundred acres, and later he was employed as a conductor on the street railway in Sacramento. In 1878 he returned to Michigan with the intention of again going to California, where he had arranged for a position in the Central Pacific Railroad shops. In the meantime he was married, and upon the persuasion of his wife and parents, gave up his second trip to California.

In 1878 he entered the employ of the Upton-Brown Threshing Machine Works, at Battle Creek, and remained in the employ of that concern for a period of two years, at the expiration of which, he purchased the old homestead in Emmett township from the heirs, his father having died in March, 1879. The ensuing three years were passed in farming on the home estate and then Mr. Blanck disposed of it and removed to Battle Creek, where he entered the service of the Grand Trunk Railroad Company as a bridge and depot builder. Later, he took charge of the building of the Wakelee Block, as superintendent, and later began contracting and building on his own account. He has erected many of the substantial structures in Battle Creek, having been contractor for the Rupert & Vesey Block and superintendent of the building of the Stone Block. He also had charge of the building of a number of the manufacturing plants and storage buildings in Battle Creek. He built a number of residences on his own account and later disposed of them and has also erected some of the fine homes of the more prominent families here.

In addition to the contracting business, Mr. Blanck has long been interested in various local business enterprises of broad scope and importance. He helped organize the Citizens Electric Company, and served that concern in the capacities of president and vice-president. He is still a stockholder in the company, is a member of its board of directors and is chairman of the executive committee. He has money invested in the Advance Pump & Compressor Company; in the City Bank of Battle Creek, in the Michigan Carton Company and in the Battle Creek Brewing Company. He is the owner of a number of residence and business lots and has always manifested a deep and sincere interest in all matters tending to promote progress and improvement in Battle Creek and Calhoun county. He also makes a specialty of estimating fire losses, as an expert, both for owners and for insurance companies.

In 1905 Mr. Blanck retired from active participation in business affairs, on account of poor health, and now contents himself with a general supervision of his extensive interests. Just after his retirement he took a trip to California, spending six months on the coast and traveling around in various sections of the country. He was made a

Hosted by Google

Mason in Bedford Lodge, No. 207, Free and Accepted Masons, in 1874, but later became a charter member of A. T. Metcalf Lodge, No. 419, at Battle Creek. He is likewise affiliated with the Chapter, Council and Commandery of the Masonic order and is a valued member of Saladin Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Grand Rapids. He is connected with the Athelstan Club in this city and has ever been a booster for Battle Creek, insisting that there is no place on the map like it. In politics he is a Republican and cast his first vote for Grant in 1868. He has taken an active interest in local politics but has never been an aspirant for public office.

Mr. Blanck has been twice married, his first union having been to Lucretia Doy, who was born in Hull, England, a daughter of Dr. John and Jane (Dunn) Doy. This ceremony was performed in 1870 and Mrs. Blanck was called to eternal rest in 1900, at the age of sixty years. Two children were born to this union,—John Elmer and Catherine. Both died while young. March 18, 1908, Mr. Blanck was united in marriage to Miss Blanche Fishler, who was born at Wellsburg, New York, but who was a resident of Elmira, New York, at the time of her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Blanck reside at No. 70 North avenue, this city.

Mr. Blanck is a man of unusual enterprise and initiative and he, himself won the splendid success which has come to him in the business world. He gives freely to all worthy movements for the betterment of mankind. His life history is certainly worthy of commendation and of emulation, for along honorable and straightforward lines he has won the success which crown his efforts and which makes him one of the substantial residents of Battle Creek, where he has so long resided and where he commands the unqualified confidence and esteem of all with whom he has had dealings.

J. Byron Sperry. Among the veritable captains of industry in Calhoun county is numbered this representative citizen and alert and progressive business man of Battle Creek, and here his interests are not only varied but also of broad scope and importance. He has been a power in the promotion of enterprises that have had emphatic influence in furthering the industrial progress and material and civic prosperity of the metropolis of Calhoun county, and his high standing as a citizen as well as his large achievement as a man of affairs specially entitle him to recognition in this history of the county. He is president of the J. B. Sperry Company, one of the most important contracting and building concerns of the county; is secretary of the Battle Creek Building & Loan Association; and is one of the principal stockholders and chief executive of the Level Park Lumber Company, besides which he and his son are owners and managers of the business conducted by the Crystal Sand & Gravel Company, which is incorporated under the laws of the state. These represent not all of the activities of Mr. Sperry, and he has done and is doing much to further the advancement and upbuilding of his home city and county, where his circle of friends is coincident with that of his acquaintances.

J. Byron Sperry was born at Panton, Addison county, Vermont, on the 29th of June, 1854, and is a son of Rev. Charles W. and Rachel Ann (Gardner) Sperry, both of whom were likewise born in the old Green Mountain state, the respective families having been founded in New England in the early colonial days. The father of Mr. Sperry was a leading member of the clergy of the Seventh Day Adventist church, and both he and his wife passed the closing years of their lives

Hosted by Google

in the state of New York. He, whose name initiates this sketch was reared in the home of his maternal grandfather, Henry Gardner, and in 1864, when nine years of age, he accompanied his grandparents on their removal to Battle Creek, Mr. Gardner having previously been a successful farmer in the state of New York and having come to Battle Creek as one of the early representatives of the colony of the members of the Adventist church, of which he and his wife were most zealous adherents. J. Byron Sperry was but seven years of age at the time of his father's death, and his devoted mother was summoned to the life eternal about two years later, he having been the only child. He was reared with tender solicitude and care by his grandparents, who continued to reside in Battle Creek until their death and the names of whom he holds in reverent memory. He was reared and educated in the city that is now his home and was one of the first pupils in the Adventist select school which was here established by Professor Bell and which later, developed into Battle Creek College, one of the leading institutions of the Adventist church for many years. As a youth Mr. Sperry entered the employ of the Review & Herald Publishing Company, in the offices of which he became a skilled workman in the various departments of the printing business. He remained with the company for a period of thirteen years, within which he served as foreman of the press room and also as foreman of the composing room for some time. He was one of the valued and popular employes of this staunch old concern, which was maintained under the auspices of the Adventist church, the interests of which were so long centralized in Battle Creek.

Since 1888, Mr. Sperry has been actively identified with real estate operations, in connection with which, he began an individual business on a modest scale, and he has been for many years one of the leading representatives of this important line of enterprise in this part of the state. In 1903, he found it expedient to handle his extensive interests in this line by the organization of the Michigan Real Estate Company, Limited, of which he has since been the executive head. He is also president of the Level Park Lumber Company and the J. B. Sperry Company, builders and contractors; and is secretary of the Battle Creek Building & Loan Association, which was organized in April, 1908, and which is exercising most benignant functions in assisting those of moderate financial resources to obtain homes of their own. Mr. Sperry is also president of the Crystal Sand & Gravel Company, incorporated, in which his associate is his second son, Charles G. This company have fifty acres of the finest sand and gravel banks in the state, the products being of all commercial grades and the splendid banks being situated at Level Park, Calhoun county, with a practically inexhaustible supply. The gravel excavation has been carried to a depth of seventy-two feet and the integrity of the deposit at that depth remains unimpaired, while experts have pronounced both the sand and gravel to be unexcelled in the entire state, the property having been given a concervative valuation of sixty thousand dollars. Mr. Sperry is also the owner of the Meadow Lawn Park addition to the city of Battle Creek, the same containing twenty-three acres, and the property is being improved according to the best modern standards. Mr. Sperry is associated with William H. Hamilton, of Battle Creek, in the ownership of Level Park, which is a tract of one hundred acres and which is eligibly located about three miles of Battle Creek. He has erected eighty-seven residences in Battle Creek and has given special attention to the building of houses for working men, to whom he sells the properties on the installment plan. He conducts a well ordered real

Hosted by Google

estate business and as a contractor and builder has been one of the most prominent and influential exponents of this line of enterprise in the city and county which have been his home from his boyhood days and in which he has found ample opportunity for worthy and productive effort. In connection with other interests, he is local representative of five leading insurance companies, and controls a substantial business as underwriter for the same. Mr. Sperry has admirably developed his powers as a man of large capacity for affairs of breadth and importance and is a progressive, liberal and loyal citizen who commands impregnable vantage ground in popular confidence and esteem. In politics, he gives his allegiance to the Republican party and he was formerly an active and effective worker in the ranks. He has never been a seeker of public office but served three years as city assessor of Battle Creek. He and his family are zealous and valued members of the Tabernacle church, Seventh Day Adventist, and he has ever held closely to the religious faith in which he was reared. He is liberal in support of the various departments of church work and is a member of the board of trustees of the Tabernacle church. In a social way he is affiliated with the local organization of the Independent Order of Foresters.

On the 18th of June, 1883, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Sperry to Miss Nellie Nelson, of Battle Creek, where she was reared and educated; she was born in the state of Maine and was a child at the time of the family removal to Battle Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Sperry have three children, all of whom were born and reared in Battle Creek. Deo R., the elder son, completed his education in the old Battle Creek College, and has been a resident of California since 1903. He now has charge of stock in the plant of the Pacific Press Publishing Company, at Mountain View, that state. In the year 1900 he was united in marriage to Miss Linda Lawrence, of Battle Creek. Charles G., the second son, resides at Level Park and has charge of the extensive business in which he is there associated with his father, as the other interested principal in the Crystal Sand & Gravel Company, Inc. He likewise was afforded the advantages of Battle Creek College, and in December, 1909, he was united in marriage to Miss Mae Bather, of Detroit. Beulah H., the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sperry, was a student in Battle Creek College until the time of its removal to Berrien Springs, and was graduated in the local high school as a member of the class of 1908. In September, 1910, was solemnized her marriage to Howard G. Bayley, who has been a resident of Battle Creek since he was twelve years of age. He was born at Metamora, Lapeer county, Michigan, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Burns) Bayley. His father was a representative business man of Metamora, where he was engaged in the buying and shipping of live stock at the time of his death, in 1896, and his widow now resides in Battle Creek.

Henry J. Schwark. One of the most progressive and best known men of Newton township, Calhoun county, is Henry J. Schwark, a successful agriculturist and one keenly awake to all that makes for advancement, not only in his particular vocation but along all lines of industry. He is one of the leading promoters of the interurban railroad that is to be built connecting the cities of Battle Creek and Coldwater, and in various other ways he has demonstrated that he belongs to that class of American farmers who are both advanced agriculturists and alert business men.

Mr. Schwark was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, on August 19, 1862 and was a lad of but eleven years when his parents, Henry and

Hosted by Google

Mary (Mau) Schwark, emigrated from Germany and settled in Emmett township, Calhoun county, Michigan. Until 1875 Henry Schwark worked by the year there; then he bought a farm in Newton township, where he continues to reside, an aged and highly respected citizen. Both parents were born in Germany, the father's birth having occurred in 1829 and that of the mother in 1831, and both were devout members of the Lutheran church; the latter has passed to the life beyond.

Henry J. Schwark has spent the most of his life amid the scenes of his later youth, for he was reared in Newton township and pursued his education in the common schools there. When beginning life for himself he took up the vocation with which he had become familiar, that of farming, and has followed it continuously since. His capital with which to begin consisted of an industrious nature, a good fund of energy, and that tenacity of purpose which has been his strength in overcoming difficulties. He has grappled with fortune and won, for he is now the owner of 213 acres of good land and is well established as one of the prosperous men of his township.

In 1882, Mr. Schwark was united in marriage to Miss Llewella M. Love, a daughter of Almond D. Love, a native of Calhoun county, who for a time taught school and also farmed and later, became a merchant at Burlington, Michigan. Mrs. Schwark died in 1903. She was an active member of the Baptist church. The marriage of Mr. Schwark and his wife gave issue to five children, namely: Cora, who died when seventeen years of age; Jesse A., who is now associated with his father in the management of the home farm; Llewella, at home; and Mertie L. and Guyle, both of whom are attending school.

In politics, Mr. Schwark is a staunch Democrat, takes an active and leading part in the local affairs of his party, and attends all of the different conventions. That he is recognized by his fellow citizens as a man who believes in improvement is evidenced by the fact that he has served twelve years altogether as supervisor of Newton township, and he has also served as town clerk six years. He was once his party's candidate for sheriff, but was defeated, owing to the predominence of Republican voters within the county. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees. As stated at the beginning of the sketch, Mr. Schwark is one of the chief promoters of the interurban railroad that is to connect Battle Creek and Coldwater and is widely recognized as a citizen who is contributing to the prestige of Calhoun county and is pushing its progress.

CHARLES H. GILLIS. As executive head of the representative firm of C. H. Gillis & Sons, general contractors and builders, Mr. Gillis is an able and successful exponent of a line of enterprise that has most important bearing upon the civic and material development and progress of any community, and is recognized as one of the leading representatives of the same in the city of Battle Creek. The mill and office of the firm are situated at 53 South McCamly street, and the facilities controlled are of the best order in all departments, a specialty being made of fine cabinet work and stair building.

Charles H. Gillis was born at Vermontville, Eaton county, Michigan, on the 12th of April, 1855, and is a son of Edwin and Elizabeth H. (Mead) Gillis, the former of whom was born in the state of New York and the latter in Meadville, Pennsylvania, she having been a representative of the family in whose honor the town was named and one which was specially prominent in the activities of the Civil war. Edward Gillis was reared and educated in his native state and there learned the tinner's trade. He came to Michigan more than half a century ago, and he was comparatively a young man at the time of his

Hosted by Google

death, which occurred in Battle Creek, in August, 1869. His wife survived him by nearly a quarter of a century and passed the closing years of her life in Battle Creek, where she died in 1893, at the age of 53 years. Her remains were interred in Oak Hill cemetery, and beside them rest the mortal relics of her husband, the same having been removed from their original resting place, in the cemetery at Marshall, and reinterred beside those of the wife of his youth. Edwin and Elizabeth H. Gillis became the parents of five sons, one of whom died in infancy, and of the four surviving the subject of this review is the eldest; William H., who was born in Battle Creek, is now a resident of Garrett, Indiana; Edwin, who was born at Galesburg, Michigan, is a resident of Kalamazoo, this state; and Harry B., who was likewise born at Galesburg, now maintains his home at South Bend, Indiana.

Charles H. Gillis was a child at the time of the family removal to Galesburg, Kalamazoo county, where he gained his early education in the public schools. He was but fourteen years of age at the time of his father's death and as the family was left in straitened circumstances he began to depend upon his own resources when a mere boy. Thus it is that he contended with adverse circumstances, learned the value of practical industry and self-reliance, and became animated with that ambition which has enabled him to gain definite and worthy success through his own well directed endeavors. In his youth he learned the carpenter's trade, and he followed the same for virtually a quarter of a century, during the major part of which period he did independent work as a builder. He has passed the major part of his life in Battle Creek. He was married at Vicksburg and thereafter resided for two years at Galesburg. He then returned to Battle Creek, which has continued to be his home since 1880. In 1907 he purchased his present mill property and since 1900 he has been engaged in general contracting and building, in which his sons became associated with him as partners. He has been the contractor in the erection of many excellent houses and other building in Battle Creek, including the fine edifice of the First Methodist Episcopal church and a substantial business block on State street. He now gives employment to a larger number of men than does any other contractor in the city, and a very considerable number of his employes are engaged in handling the work at the mill, which is equipped for the turning out of the highest grade of cabinet work and interior finishing, the plant being operated as a custom mill. A specialty is made of the installing of store fronts and other remodeling and also of the manufacturing of window screens, which has become an important part of the business.

In politics Mr. Gillis is a stalwart supporter of the cause of the Republican party, but he is essentially a business man and has had neither time nor inclination for the activities of practical politics, though his sense of civic duty caused him to make favorable response when he was tendered the nomination for representative of the second ward in the city board of aldermen, as a member of which body he is now serving his fourth year, his term expiring in April, 1912.

At Vicksburg, Kalamazoo county, on the 21st of August, 1878, Mr. Gillis was united in marriage to Miss Dora L. Russell, who was reared and educated at Galesburg, that county, and who is a daughter of L. W. and Susan M. (Sharpstein) Russell. Her father was a wagon maker by vocation and was a valiant soldier in a Michigan regiment in the Civil war; he passed the closing years of his life at Mancelona, Antrim county, and his widow now resides at Galesburg. Mr. and Mrs. Gillis have two sons. Floyd R. was born in Battle Creek, on

Hosted by Google

the 20th of September, 1885, and was here reared and educated. He has been actively associated with his father in business, as a member of the firm of C. H. Gillis & Sons, since 1911, and is one of the alert and popular young business men of his native city. On the 2d of July, 1906, he wedded Miss Laura Gillett, of Battle Creek, and they have two children, Charles Henry and Martha Dora. Carl H., the younger son, was born in Battle Creek, and like his brother is a member of the firm of C. H. Gillis & Sons, though he now resides in the city of Chicago, where he holds a responsible position with the National Biscuit Company. After availing himself of the advantages of the public schools he completed a course in the Michigan Business & Normal College, in Battle Creek, in which he was graduated. The attractive modern home of the subject of this review is located at 180 Upton avenue, and his elder son resides at 479 West Van Buren street.

ELBERT COREY. A remarkable percentage of the citizens of Calhoun county have sprung from families that were first established on the soil of the old Empire State, but responded during the early part of the last century to the invitation of the virgin and fertile soil of Southern Michigan to found new homes. Though there were to be endured the hardships incident to life in a new and undeveloped country, those of staying qualities found there the promised advantages of greater opportunities and better home. Among the names connected with the early settlement of Calhoun county appears those of the Corey and Barker families, both of which Elbert Corey represents as a descendant.

He was born in Athens township, Calhoun county, Michigan, July 27, 1859, one of eight children that came to his parents, William and Mary (Barker) Corey. The father was born in New York in 1820 and the mother's nativity occurred in the same state in 1823. Both accompanied their respective parents to Calhoun county, Michigan, when but children, were reared in Athens township, and received their education in the district schools of their vicinity. William Corey took up farming and followed it with success until his death on the old homestead in 1909. He was a Republican in his political views. When his father settled in Athens township the tract upon which he located was wild and unimproved and had to be cleared, thus William grew up familiar with the life of the pioneer farmer in Michigan. Both father and son prospered and became large owners of land. The maternal grandfather of our subject took up his land from the government and resided on it the remainder of his life. His brother, Martin Barker, served with distinction in the War of 1812.

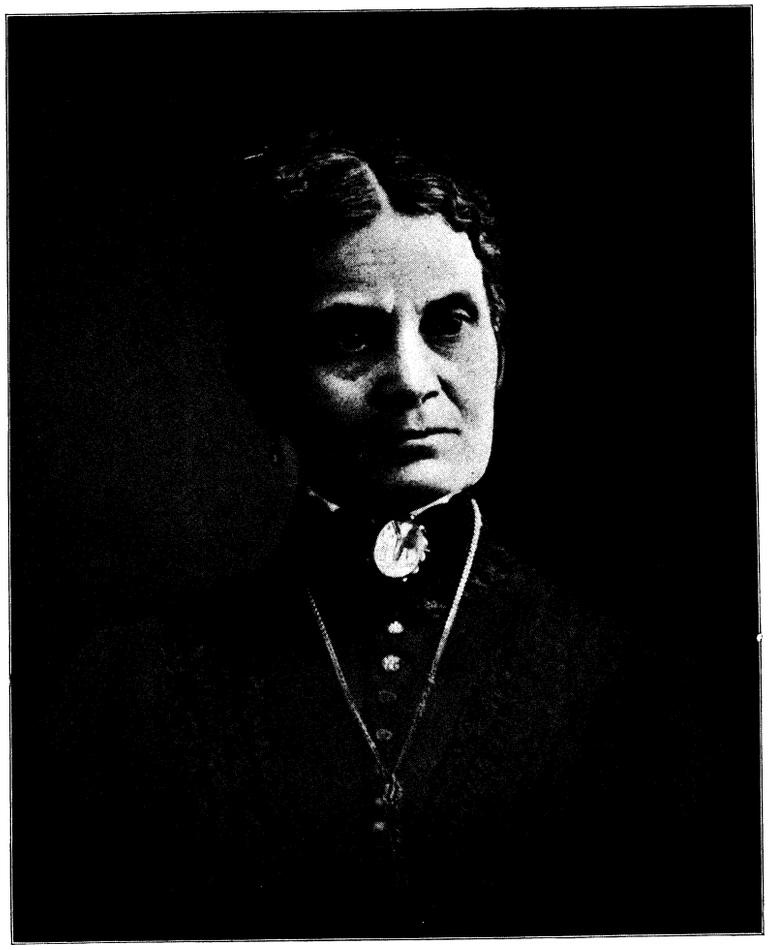
The educational advantages of Elbert Corey were limited to those of the district schools. When he assumed independent relations in life he did so as an employe on his father's farm and by working out by the month for others, continuing thus until his marriage March 18, 1885, when he became established where he now resides, the property being that which his wife inherited from her father. Mrs. Corey was formerly Miss Lola Hurd, a daughter of Luther Hurd, who was another of the very early settlers in Calhoun county and one of the most prosperous farmers of Newton township. At the time Mr. and Mrs. Corey began life together their farm was not cleared. It is now all under cultivation, its well-tilled acres forming an appropriate settling for a beautiful country home, with other numerous buildings appurtenant to a well-equipped farm, all of which Mr. Corey has placed there. In politics he is a Democrat. Mr. and Mrs. Corey have two children, Morris and Emma, both of whom are at home with their parents.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



Hosted by Google



HANNAH W. BRYANT

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

MRS. HANNAH WILLIS BRYANT. Stephen Healy Willis was for many years a resident of Calhoun county and was in his time classed with the leading agriculturist of the state. He entered business life somewhat handicapped by physical infirmity, yet he achieved a success that many a more able-bodied man might have envied. He was a man of unusual force of character, which, together with his ambition, enabled him to win a degree of success and prosperity of a pleasing nature. He reached the age of eighty-four years, and his name will long be remembered kindly in the community where he made his home for many years.

Born on the 5th of January, 1805, in Greene, Chenango county, New York, Stephen Healy Willis was the third child of his parents, Matthew and Sarah (Lyon) Willis, both of whom were natives of Connecticut. At an early period in his life Matthew Willis made his home in Tompkins county, New York, and later resided in Clyde, that state. He kept a tavern in Tompkins county and was at one time quite a wealthy man, but an unfortunate turn of fortune's wheel lost his entire property to him, and with his family was practically turned out of their home, when their youngest child was but an infant in arms. This unfortunate event took place when Stephen Willis was a lad of ten, and he was soon thereafter bound out, as a means of easing the family burden. His crippled condition made life unduly hard for him and when he was about seventeen he returned to his parents, who were then located in Clyde, New York. He remained with them till he was well on in his twenties, and his assistance proved valuable in enabling his father to become the owner of a farm. This accomplished, the young man started out for himself and secured employment in a glass factory. He was later employed on the Erie canal and afterward went to Rochester, thence to East Bloomfield, New York.

It was in the springtime of 1835 that Mr. Willis first came to Calhoun county. He came in company with the man who later became his brother-in-law, and for a time he was in the employ of Judge Olin. The country then was in a wild, unsettled state, but Mr. Willis, with his natural insight into the future, recognized the splendid opportunities which the virgin country presented, and in the autumn of 1837 entered two hundred and eight acres of land from the government, his deed to the land being signed by President Van Buren,—a paper which is still in the possession of his daughter, Mrs. Bryant. In May, 1838, he returned to East Bloomfield, New York, and there the young man married Miss Thankful Case, a native daughter of Rhode Island, and the child of Jesse and Tabitha (Hopkins) Case who removed to Ontario county, New York, during the girlhood of their daughter. Mr. Willis returned with his young bride and the pair established their home upon the land he had secured from the government. They met with all those trying experiences common to the pioneer in a new land, incident to short means and the usual primitive conditions, and it is a fact of which they often spoke that there were times when they found it difficult to secure the cash to pay the postage rate, then twenty-five cents, upon letters to their friends in the home state. Two children came to them, but one died in infancy, and lies buried with the parents in Riverside cemetery. The other, Hannah M., is the only living representative of the family in this section of the state, and now lives at the old homestead.

Mr. Willis was more or less closely connected with the public affairs of his community through the years he passed in this vicinity, and his name figures somewhat conspicuously in relation to the history of Albion. The city of Albion was in the early days known as The Forks, and it was upon the petition of Mr. Willis and Amos Babcock that the

Hosted by Google

legislature granted a charter for changing the name. The name Albion was chosen, because it was the name of a town near to Mr. Willis' old New York home. The personal activities of Mr. Willis in a business way were resultant in a continuous upbuilding of his fortunes, and he gradually accumulated a valuable property, including the home farm of four hundred acres. This land was in a wild and uncultivated state when it came into his hands, but the passing years saw a wondrous transformation in his property, and it eventually came to yield him splendid crops as the result of his applied industry and enthusiasm.

Mr. Willis was always known for a man of the most scrupulous honor and integrity, and his success was the result of unremitting labor, wisely guided by common sense and sound business judgment.

In 1881 the faithful wife of Mr. Willis died at the age of seventy-nine, and it was about seven years later that he passed on. Following the death of his wife he made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Hannah M. Bryant, who cared for him most faithfully and tenderly during his declining years. About three years previous to his death he fell and broke his hip, and though he recovered sufficiently to be able to get about with the aid of crutches, he was almost an invalid as a result of the accident, and he died on the 13th of October, 1888, at the venerable age of eighty-three years, nine and a half months. He was cognizant that the end was near, but his faith in the love of the All-Father was sufficient for him and he died calmly and peacefully. He was reared in the faith of the Presbyterian church and was a member of that denomination, but he was ever deeply interested in the Baptist church of Albion and gave most generously to its support. His friends of the Baptist church, in appreciation of his unfailing generosity, presented their friend and benefactor with a gift of an easy chair on his eightieth birthday, which afforded him much comfort during the last three years of his life. He was a kind hearted, generous Christian gentleman and none ever came to him in vain for sympathy or aid, and when he finally passed away, he was deeply mourned by many who had loved him and who had reason to feel they had lost a friend. A local publication said of him at the time of his death: "He was a man of strict integrity, true to what he believed to be right, energetic and persevering, doing well whatever he undertook. He was known to everybody as a good man and we have yet to hear the first word against his character. He was a great reader and possessed more than ordinary mentality. His presence will be greatly missed, but his good example and wise counsels will not soon be forgotten. Thus has passed away another of our old settlers and a man whose memory will be cherished by a large circle of friends."

Mrs. Hannah M. Bryant, the sole surviving member of the Willis family, was born and reared in Calhoun county, and she was married on the 27th day of February, 1867, to Mr. Squire Calhoun Bryant, who was born on November 8, 1838, near Dansville, New York. After his death his widow made her home for six years in Rochester, New York, and in 1878 returned to her father's home, where she remained until his death. She is now the owner of the old farmstead which he entered from the government nearly eighty years ago, and is busily engaged in its operation. To the four hundred which her father left her Mrs. Bryant has added three hundred acres and is now the owner of at least seven hundred acres of fine land in Calhoun county, together with other valuable property. Mrs. Bryant has exercised the same keenness of discernment in the manipulation of her affairs which characterized her father's operations, and she is regarded as one of the most

Hosted by Google

successful women of the county today. Thoroughly understanding farming from the most improved and modern view points, she has amply demonstrated her ability to farm scientifically and with profit. In 1899 she erected a handsome residence on her farm at a cost of about five thousand dollars, acknowledged to be one of the fine country homes of Calhoun county, and hospitality abounds in her pleasant home. Mrs. Bryant has endeared a large circle of friends to herself with the passing years, and is one of the most beloved women of the county.

FRED D. COTTON. Noteworthy among the energetic farmers who materially assist in maintaining the reputation of Calhoun county as a superior agricultural and stockraising region is Fred D. Cotton, who has made his own way through life, every dollar that he possesses having come to him through his own efforts. A son of John Cotton, he was born January 9, 1872, in Marshall county, Kansas. His paternal grandfather, Dudley Cotton, was born in Vermont, of English lineage. Coming to Michigan many years ago, he took up government land in Le Roy township, Calhoun county, and on the farm which he hewed from the wilderness spent his remaining days, dying at the venerable age of four score and four years.

Born and brought up in Le Roy township, John Cotton assisted his father in the pioneer labor of clearing and improving a farm, remaining at home until after the breaking out of the Civil war, when he volunteered his services, and served for three years as a soldier, taking part in many engagements of importance. He made farming his chief occupation, and is now living in Battle Creek. He married De Ette Rider, who was born in Calhoun county, Michigan, on the farm where her father, Benjamin Rider, settled on coming to Michigan from New York.

Selecting for his life occupation the free and independent calling of a farmer, Fred D. Cotton has been engaged in agricultural pursuits for many years. He has displayed marked ability and intelligence in his labors, and in his work has been quite prosperous. In 1909 he bought his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and is meeting with very satisfactory results as a general farmer and stock-raiser, each year adding to the improvements and value of his estate. Politically Mr. Cotton is a steadfast Republican, and fraternally he is a member of Climax Lodge, No. 59, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons.

Mr. Cotton married, in 1896, Mabelle Hayes, a daughter of Leonard Jerome Hayes, who was born in New York state, was for some time engaged in farming in Michigan, and later removed to South Bend, Indiana, where he carried on a prosperous business as a baker. Mrs. Cotton's paternal grandfather, Captain Hayes, who served in the Civil war from 1861 until 1863, was born, lived, and died in Hebron, Washington county, New York. On July 19, 1874, Leonard Jerome Hayes married Ellen Blackett, a remarkably capable young woman, who was an expert dressmaker, and an accomplished musician, having for a number of years given instruction on the piano, and to them three children were born, Mabelle, Carrie and Jesse. Mrs. Cotton's maternal grandfather, William Blackett, was born in Warwickshire, England, in 1825, and came to America in 1844, landing in New York, from there walking, with his brother, Robert, to Detroit, Michigan. For five years thereafter he followed his trade of a blacksmith, and then, in 1850, bought two hundred acres of land lying south and west of Battle Creek. He subsequently lived in Kalamazoo a few years, and while there developed his great artistic talent, creating from fifty to sixty large and valuable oil paintings, some of which won either first or second premiums at the Chicago and Detroit fairs. He was widely

Hosted by Google

known as the "farmer artist." William Blackett married, in 1846, Lucy Chamberlain, who was born in Berkshire, England, in 1826, and came to America with her parents in 1837. In 1838 her father took his family back to Old England, and in 1840, with his wife and six children, returned to the United States, being three months in crossing the ocean. Mrs. William Blackett died in 1900, two years before her husband, leaving six children, as follows: Sidney, William, Charles, Frank, Henry, Ellen and Libbie.

Mr. and Mrs. Cotton are the parents of four children, namely: Bessie, Walter, Aulean, and Wallace.

OTIS F. KIMBALL. Although badly handicapped as a young man by the loss of his right arm while fighting for his country, Otis F. Kimball, now a prosperous and wealthy agriculturist of Newton township, bravely began his active career without means, but without a doubt of ultimate success, and by dint of industry, thrift, and superior business management has attained a position of affluence and influence among the leading men of his community. A son of Jesse R. Kimball, he was born, February 8, 1845, in Burlington township, Calhoun county, of substantial New England stock. His grandfather, Wills was of Scotch-Irish ancestry, and came from a family noted for its military spirit and service, several of his kinsmen having been officers in the Standing Army, while he himself served in the Revolutionary war.

Jesse R. Kimball was born, in 1798, in New Hampshire, and among its rocks and rills grew to manhood. Following the march of civilization westward, he came to Michigan with the pioneers of 1835, and for thirty years thereafter was engaged in tilling the soil in Burlington township, Calhoun county. Selling that farm about 1865, he purchased land in Newton township, and was there employed in general farming until his death, in 1882. He was a man of sterling integrity and worth, and a consistent Christian. His wife, whose maiden name was Sallie Rood, survived him, passing away in 1885. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He inherited the patriotic spirit that characterized his ancestors, and during the War of 1812, when but fourteen years old, served in the army as a drummer boy.

In 1862, while yet in his teens, Otis F. Kimball, enthused with patriotic zeal, enlisted in Company A, First Regiment Michigan Sharpshooters, and with his command was sent to Indiana to look after Morgan and his raiders, pursuing the band to North Vernon and to Pierceville. He was subsequently at the front in the Battle of the Wilderness, and again at Spottsylvania, where he was so severely wounded that after the engagement he was forced to have his right arm amputated. He remained in the Columbia hospital until December, 1864, when he was discharged from the service, and returned home. With only one arm, Mr. Kimball sought some comparatively light work, for a time serving as a book agent, and later becoming a dealer in stock. In course of time he accumulated some means, which he invested in land. In 1882 he purchased his present home farm in Newton township, and has since placed the larger part of his one hundred and sixty acres under a high state of cultivation, and has erected a commodious residence and substantial barns and outbuildings, his improvements being of a practical and substantial character. He is Independent in politics, voting for the best men and measures without regard to party prejudice.

On April 19, 1881, Mr. Kimball was united in marriage with Florence Stolp, who was born in New York state, a daughter of William Stolp, who came to Michigan in 1850, bought land in Calhoun county, and was subsequently engaged in farming the remainder of his life. Mr. and

Hosted by Google

Mrs. Kimball have two children, namely: Courtland V., living on the home farm; and Leonia, a student at the Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

JOHN P. CLOUGH, a well known and substantial farmer of Sheridan township, is the son of English parents. Born in New York, March 23, 1851, he came with them to Calhoun county, Michigan, in 1856 and for fifty-six years has been a continuous resident of the township in which they settled. Here he grew up a farmer boy, attended the country schools, and when he came to responsible years took up carpentering as his occupation. After seven years in this line of employment he took up farming, the first five years on the shares. In 1882 he bought his present farm of 219 acres in Sheridan township and went in debt for the whole of it. Energetic, ambitious and self-reliant and not afraid of work, he set about with courage and vigor to make it truly his and today he is its owner free of all indebtedness. A man of unquestioned force and probity of character, he has thus from a small beginning made his way to the very first rank of Sheridan township's successful and influential agriculturists through an unconquerable determination to succeed. It is through the efforts of such men that so much has been accomplished in the development of Calhoun county and upon such citizens depends the future progress and standing of the county. Besides general farming Mr. Clough is also interested in dairying and has twenty-one cows.

He is a son of Henry and Ellen (Blackhurst) Clough, who as previously mentioned became settlers in Sheridan township in 1856. Both were natives of England, where he was born in 1828 and she in 1830. Henry Clough came to America in 1848 and settled in New York, where he was married and from whence he came to Michigan. He was a resident of Sheridan township forty-four years, or until his death in 1900, and was accounted one of its sterling men. He worked a farm near Hillsdale one year and so successfully managed it that he made $1,000, and with this as his capital purchased the farm of seventy acres which formed his homestead. It will thus be seen that both father and son have been self-made men. Henry Clough was a Republican in politics. Ellen Blackhurst Clough was the daughter of Stephen and Fannie (Taylor) Blackhurst, who were English settlers in New York but finally made their home in Michigan and passed away in this state. To the parents of our subject were born five children, of whom two besides John P. reside in Calhoun county, namely: Kara, now Mrs. Wallace Abbott, of Albion township, and William Clough, of Sheridan township. The mother was a communicant of the Episcopal church.

In 1879 John P. Clough took as his wife Miss Eliza Kimmer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Kimmer, old residents of Sheridan township. To this union have been born four children, viz: Kara D., the wife of Charles Schroyer and a resident of Michigan; Charles, who operates a farm in Sheridan township; Clara, now Mrs. Max Roots, of Sheridan township; and Laura, at home. Mr. Clough is a member of the Ancient Order of Gleaners, and in politics is a Republican.

CHARLES R. LAMB. Calhoun county is well favored in the number of its intelligent and enterprising farmer citizens, one of whom is Charles R. Lamb, a native of Marengo township who has continuously resided on his present homestead in Clarence township since 1844. Removed to Clarence in 1845. This homestead is one which his father, Andrew Lamb, bought in 1844, on October 9 of which year Charles R. was born. Andrew Lamb, born in 1800, and his wife Susan (Lincoln) Lamb were

Hosted by Google

both natives of New York, in which state they were married and from whence they removed to Calhoun county, Michigan. They were among the very early settlers in this county and located in Clarence township, where they bought a farm on which they spent the remainder of their lives and which their son Charles R. now owns. Andrew Lamb had no capital to assist him in making his way in life save the will and willingness to do, and all that he accumulated was the result of his own labor. He died in 1862. To these parents were born ten children but five of whom survive at this date (1912), namely: Sanford Lamb, now a resident of Eaton county, Michigan; Emery Lamb, who resides in Albion, Michigan and was a Union soldier in the Civil war; Mrs. Martha Olds, whose home is in California; Sarah A., who first married John Wise and after his death became the wife of Charles Square, now also deceased; and Charles R. Lamb, the subject of this review. Andrew Lamb was a son of Isaac Lamb. In political affairs he was first aligned with the Whigs and then later with the Republicans.

Charles R. Lamb grew to manhood on the parental Clarence township farm and in the meantime received the usual common school education. He was yet in his teens when his father died but he continued to work on the home place and later bought it. At the time of his purchase it was encumbered. By untiring industry and steady perseverance he acquired the means to remove the mortgage; he built up the farm, and in recent years erected an attractive and comfortable brick residence on the west side of Duck Lake. Today he owes no man, is the owner of a good farm of eighty-four acres, and has acquired that competence which so far as finances are concerned insures him a comfortable old age.

In 1868 he was united in marriage to M. J. Gribble, daughter of John and Susan (Clark) Gribble, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania in 1812 and the latter in Ohio in 1820. Mr. and Mrs. Gribble came to Calhoun county, Maryland in the early '50s and settled on a farm of eighty acres in Clarence township, where the former passed away in 1862. He was a Democrat. Mr. and Mrs. Lamb have two children. Their son Wilkes is a resident of Jackson county, Michigan, and their daughter Cecelia is the wife of Frank Abbey and resides in Albion, Michigan.

Mr. Lamb is an advocate of prohibition. In religious faith he is a Christian Scientist, with the merits of which teachings he first became acquainted some twenty years ago while seeking relief from sickness. He had been in ill health several years and all attempts to secure beneficial help had thus far failed when he came under the influence of Christian Science teachings and found the long sought relief, for he has not had a sick day since. He firmly believes in God and His good works. Mr. Lamb is one of the most influential men of Clarence township, a position he has attained through long years of worthy living during which his honor and integrity have ever been his first consideration. He is therefore deservedly mentioned among the representative men of Calhoun county.

JOHN M. THOM. "Talent alone cannot make a book; there must be a man behind the book," writes Emerson, and, had the American philosopher been discussing matters which had to do with the making of monuments as well as those pertaining to literature, he might have added: "Stone cutting alone cannot make a monument; there must be a man behind the instruments," a man, too, possessed of the necessary qualifications; a man of brain, training and talents that are bound to lead to success and comfortable competence, as in the case of the subject of these lines. John M. Thom, widely and favorably known

Hosted by Google

as a sculptor of ability, and manufacturer of granite and marble monuments, statuary, etc., located at No. 60 Virginia avenue, Battle Creek, was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, April 28, 1881, and is a son of George and Jessie (McDonald) Thom, both of whom are now living retired in Aberdeen. The father was for a long period a granite manufacturer in Scotland, but during the last ten years has not been engaged in active business. He has visited this country on two occasions, but his wife has never left the land of her birth. They had a family of seven children, two sons and five daughters, and all are now married except one sister, who resides with her parents. Two boys and one sister now reside in the United States: John M.; Mrs. R. J. Cummings, residing in Omaha, Nebraska; and Alexander, second engineer in one of the big manufacturing plants of Cleveland, Ohio.

John M. Thom was educated at Aberdeen in the Robert Gordon's College and also attended the Gray School of Art. Following this he enlisted as a volunteer in the British army, becoming a member of the First Batallion, Gordon Highlanders, a famous, hard-fighting regiment, with which he was connected five years. For eighteen months he served in South Africa, under Gen. Kitchener, in the Boer War, during which he had an uncle, William R. McGregor, who was killed, and a cousin wounded. Mr. Thom received his honorable discharge in 1902, and during the following year set sail for the United States. He landed first at Montreal, Canada, where he remained only a short time, then going to Barre, Vermont, where he worked in the granite quarries for five years. Subsequently, he spent a short time in Ottawa, Canada, and in 1909 came to Battle Creek, Michigan, and engaged in business with William McDonald, under the firm name of McDonald & Thom. Two years later, however, his health failing, Mr. McDonald was forced to go to California, and accordingly went to Los Angeles, where he has since resided, Mr. Thom being sole owner of the business. He has erected some of the first monuments in Oak Hill and the Catholic Cemetery, and makes a specialty of carving and designing. He is a man of sterling enterprise as well as artistic ability, which is manifested in every detail of his business, and during his long experience has made a special study of each branch of his profession; all of which, combined with the strictest integrity and honorable dealing, leading characteristics of those of Scotch birth, have won for him innumerable friends and a wide business connection. The monuments in our cemeteries are evidence of the respect and affection the living entertain for their dead, and honoring the dead has been the inspiration of sculptors in all ages, a desire to execute those wonderful creations that have filled the world with monuments of beauty. The designing and execution of memorial work is not a trade, but an art, and furnishes a wide range for men possessed of such artistic attainments as have been bestowed upon Mr. Thom. One of the best known specimens of his work is to be found in Oak Hill cemetery, marking the grave of Dr. A. E. McBeth, a former old and honored physician of this city. On rough granite is a perfectly executed representation of the Doctor's horse, above which is a Masonic emblem, a symbol of his long and honored connection with that great fraternity. The whole work is graceful in its symmetry and strikingly impressive, a beautiful ornament to that city of the dead. Another beautiful monument is that of the late Mrs. W. H. Staley, erected by her daughter, Mrs. C. L. Post, of Battle Creek. Both these works were executed by Mr. Thom and are admirable specimens of his talent, his handicraft and his sympathetic understanding of his art. His establishment, situated at No. 60 Virginia avenue, within three minutes' walk of Oak Hill and Mt. Olivet

Hosted by Google

cemeteries, is fitted with pneumatic tools and all modern machinery and appliances. In addition, Mr. Thom acts as agent for the Stewart Iron Works Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, manufacturers of iron reservoir vases. His skill in lettering caused him to be chosen to do all the lettering on the new large Battle Creek Mausoleum, at Oak Hill cemetery, one of the largest pieces of work of this kind that has been done here.

In fraternal matters Mr. Thom is connected with St. Andrews Society, the Woodmen of the World and a Scotch society of Barre, Vermont, the Clan Gordon Society. He and his family are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The family home is located at No. 11 Pauline avenue, and Mr. Thom and his wife have many friends in their neighborhood, as he has in business and fraternal circles of Battle Creek.

On August 27, 1907, Mr. Thom was married at Barre, Vermont, to Miss Ellen McMinn, of Barre, she being a native of Bessbrook, Ireland, and accompanied her parents, John and Elizabeth McMinn, to the United States when she was a very small child. She was educated in the schools of Barre, Vermont, where she resided until after her marriage, and where her father was engaged in stone cutting for a number of years. Mrs. Thom's parents now make their home with their daughter and son-in-law, in Battle Creek, and Mr. McMinn still follows his trade. To Mr. and Mrs. Thom there have been born two children: Eleanor Jessie, who was born in Barre, Vermont; and Russell Winston, born in Battle Creek.

HOWARD W. MILLER. A man of scholarly attainments and pronounced ability, Howard W. Miller is one of the best known men of his township, distinguished not only for the great good he has accomplised as a preacher in the church of the Seventh Day Adventists, but for the success he has achieved as a farmer and stock raiser. A son of Hickman Miller, he was born, July 29, 1848, in Carroll county, Ohio.

His paternal grandfather, Charles Miller, a native of Pennsylvania, served in the War of 1812 as a brave and gallant soldier. He subsequently migrated to Ohio, where he took up large tracts of Government land, and later bought other tracts, acquiring title to six hundred or more acres in that state, where he spent his last days, dying at the venerable age of eighty-two years. He was a Whig in politics, and well known not only in Carroll county, but in all of the near-by counties, having beee prominent in public affairs, and for forty years serving as justice of the peace. Mr. Miller's maternal grandfather, Stephen West, a native of Pennsylvania, became an early settler, and a successful farmer, of Carroll county, Ohio, but later moved to Michigan, and died in Branch county.

Hickman Miler was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, but when quite young moved to Carroll county, Ohio, where he resided a number of years after his marriage to Elizabeth West; a native of that county. In March, 1862, he came with his family to Calhoun county, Michigan, bought land in Tekonsha township, and was there successfully employed as a farmer until his death. He was a staunch supporter of the principles of the Republican party, but not an office seeker.

About fourteen years of age when he came with the family to Calhoun county, Howard W. Miller attended the country schools for a time, subsequently receiving his collegiate education in Albion. Entering then upon a professional career, he taught school, both in Calhoun and Branch counties, several years, and for three years was asso-

Hosted by Google

ciated with the college at Battle Creek, having charge of the dormitory, and of the Bible class. He likewise preached in the Adventist church, and still continues as a preacher, although at the present time he has no regular charge.

Mr. Miller owns two hundred acres of land in Newton township, and in its care and cultivation takes much pleasure, at the same time finding the rural occupation of a farmer quite remunerative. He not only tills the soil, but raises considerable stock, making a specialty of Percheron horses. True to the political faith in which he was reared, he is a staunch Republican, and has filled some of the township offices.

Mr. Miller married, September 27, 1873, Savina R. Jones. Her father, Alvy N. Jones, crossed the plains to California in 1851, and for a time after his arrival in the gold fields was prosperous, but it is supposed that he died ere he had been there long, as he was never heard from after the first few communications. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1813, and his wife, was born in the same state, in 1810. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have two children, namely: Clayton C., living on the home farm; and Clyde H. Clayton C. Miller was graduated from the Ypsilanti Normal School, and subsequently taught school twelve years, being successful as an educator. Clyde H. Miller, graduated from the Battle Creek high school, later studied law, and is now engaged in the practice of his profession at Des Moines, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are trustworthy members of the Seventh Day Adventist church.

FRED J. FUNK. A man of superior business ability and judgment, Fred J. Funk, of Newton township, has through his own efforts, attained a position of eminence among the foremost agriculturists of Calhoun county, his finely improved estate, with its commodious and substantial buildings, giving ample evidence to the passer-by of his skill and good taste as a practical farmer and rural householder. He was born, December 24, 1865, in Germany, a son of John H. and Dorothea (Paap) Funk.

Born and brought up in Germany, John H. Funk there spent his brief life, dying in 1879, ere reaching manhood's prime. He was a shepherd by occupation, and in humble circumstances, leaving his family with exceedingly limited means. In 1883 his widow brought her family to Calhoun county, Michigan, and here her death occurred three years later, in 1886, at the home of her sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Lampky. Fred J. Funk during those years had been her chief support.

For a short time after coming to Calhoun county, Fred J. Funk worked for Mr. Alonzo Root, in Newton township, attending school during the time, and working for his board. He entered the employ of John Hyde, a farmer and there became accustomed to the ways of the country, and learned the language, receiving thirteen dollars a month wages. In 1885, Mr. Funk married Lucy I. Root, a daughter of his second employer, Alonzo Root, who at that time deeded to him and his wife his eighty acre farm, Mr. Funk assuming all debts and incumbrances. In the management of the property Mr. Funk made good, paying off debts in a comparatively short time, and has added more land, his farm now containing one hundred and sixty-three acres of rich and fertile land, from which he reaps excellent harvests each season.

Mr. Alonzo Root was born and bred in Connecticut. Migrating to Michigan in 1837, he settled on a farm in Newton township, Calhoun county, becoming owner of eighty acres of land. While successful as an agriculturist, he accumulated but little property, being liberal, and

Hosted by Google

free-hearted, donating generously to charitable institutions, and giving to his neighbors. Mr. Root was one of the best known and most popular men in the county, being held in high esteem by young and old. He was a staunch Republican in politics, and filled the various township offices most acceptably to all concerned. He was of Scotch and English ancestry, and belonged to a family of prominence, Elihu Root, Secretary of State, being a cousin of his. He died April 13, 1901. The maiden name of the wife of Mr. Root was Mary Phelps. She was a daughter of Rev. Asa Phelps, a noted pioneer Methodist Episcopal preacher, who came to Calhoun county at an early period of its settlement, and founded the first church of that denomination in Battle Creek. He died with a Bible in his hands.

Mr. and Mrs. Funk are the parents of six children, namely: William R., a farmer; Barthold F., at home; Mary Ethel, wife of Nelson Eddy; and Donald, Alonzo, and Ruby D., attending school.

Mr. Funk is a steadfast Republican in politics, and for twelve years served as treasurer of the township school funds. He is very active in the establishment of beneficial enterprises, and was largely responsible for having the township roads graveled, donating one and one-half miles of gravel for that purpose. He belongs to the local Grange, and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

DANIEL REASONER. Among the many prosperous and prominent agricultural men who have done so much for the development and upbuilding of the community in which they have located in Calhoun county, Daniel Reasoner of Le Roy, is eminently deserving of some mention, brief though it may of necessity be, and a history of Calhoun county could not do justice to the district without including his name, as well as the names of others of his township.

Born in the Empire state, on August 2, 1832, Daniel Reasoner is the son of James and Peggy (Jenkins) Reasoner. The father was a native of New York, born there in 1802, and he moved to Michigan in 1854, settling first in Calhoun county. Later he bought a farm of three hundred and twenty acres near Augusta, also in Calhoun county. The land was new and unbroken at the time, and much strenuous labor was required to reduce it to a state of fertility, but Mr. Reasoner was entirely equal to the task. He moved later to Battle Creek and then to Climax, where he died in 1878. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in the later years of his life, Mr. Reasoner was a Republican. They reared a family of eight children, who lived to reach years of usefulness and are filling places of responsibility in their various niches in life . The mother died in 1842.

Daniel Reasoner was educated in the common schools of New York and also attended the high school of Lima, New York. He has spent the greater part of his life on the farm and the splendid success he has won in his agricultural labors is the direct result of the close application he has ever given to matters pertaining to that line of industry. In 1864 he bought a farm of two hundred acres, and there he built the home which has sheltered the family during the years that have passed, and with the recurring seasons he managed to make of his wilderness farm one of the finest places in the county. Modern, well equipped, well kept and abundantly productive, the homestead of Daniel Reasoner is one of which he may well be proud. He is a thorough farmer, and his qualities of citizenship are not less worthy than his traits as a successful farmer. He is regarded as one of the valuable men of the county, and his influence is felt beyond the immediate sphere of his activity.

In October, 1859, Mr. Reasoner married Hannah Mills, a daughter

Hosted by Google

of Amon Mills, who was one of the earliest settlers of Calhoun county, where he owned and improved a fine farm, on which he lived until his death. Mr. and Mrs. Reasoner became the parents of seven children. They are: Mabel, the wife of Samuel Marshall, who lives near Hastings, Michigan. Lewell is in Detroit. Carl is with his father on the farm. Jessie married Dr. Zelinsky, of Battle Creek. There are deceased three children, Olin, Luna and De Witt C.

The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Reasoner is a Prohibitionist in his political belief.

LEROY R. BLISS. Among the younger of Calhoun county's native sons who have become patrons of husbandry is Leroy R. Bliss, of Sheridan township, who owns one of the valuable farm properties of that community and whose efforts have been in the direction of general farming and the raising of small fruits, especially berries. Mr. Bliss was born in Sheridan township, Calhoun county, Michigan, May 24, 1875, a son of William and Nancy (Strickland) Bliss. William Bliss was born in Herkimer county, New York, in 1842 and died in Calhoun county, Michigan in 1901. He came to Michigan about 1870 and located at Albion, where he met and married Nancy Strickland. The first three years there he ran a milk wagon; then he bought the farm of 100 acres in Sheridan township which forms a part of the estate of his son Leroy and on which he thereafter resided until his death. He made a specialty of raising berries. Starting in life with nothing in the way of capital, by means of perseverance, industry and like virtues he accumulated a gratifying competence and died well-to-do. He was a member of the Masonic order and of the Grand Army of the Republic, and in politics was a Democrat. When the storm of Civil war burst over the country in 1861 he enlisted in the Twenty-sixth New York regiment of infantry, which was mustered into the service May 21, 1861, at Elmira, for a three months' term. It left the state on June 19 for Washington. When the advance of the army commenced in March, 1862, it was assigned to the 1st brigade, 2nd division, Department of the Rappahannock for a month, and it then became a part of the 2d brigade, 2d division, 3d corps, Army of Virginia. Under special orders from the war department the regiment was remustered on August 21, 1861, for the remainder of two years' service. The regiment was present at Cedar Mountain and participated in the campaign in Virginia under General Pope, and lost heavily in the second battle of Bull Run. Here Mr. Bliss was wounded, but on his recovery rejoined his regiment, which had then been assigned to the Army of the Potomac, and with it participated in the engagements at South Mountain and Antietam, being wounded for the second time at the latter battle. It met its heaviest loss at Fredericksburg. The regiment performed advance picket duty during the Chancellorsville movement during the spring of 1863, and on May 28, 1863, was mustered out at Utica, New York. Mrs. Bliss, who is still living and resides with her son, was born near Eaton Rapids, Michigan, in 1847, a daughter of John Strickland who became an early settler in Albion. He was a stone mason by trade and helped to erect the college building at Albion. William Bliss was a son of Charles Bliss, a native and a life long resident of New York state.

Leroy R. Bliss was reared on the homestead in Sheridan township which he now owns. Educated first in the local district schools, he later graduated from the Albion high school and then took a course in the business department of the Albion College. After his father's death he bought out the other heirs in the estate, added to it, and now owns one of the valuable farms of this section, comprising 151 acres. He follows

Hosted by Google

general farming and like his father gives special attention to the raising of berries. He also feeds considerable stock.

Mr. Bliss was married in 1905 to Edith McLean, daughter of Arthur McLean, now of Chicago. To their union have been born two children, Willard and Josephine. Mr. Bliss is a Mason and affiliates with the Blue Lodge No. 14, and Chapter No. 32 at Albion, and also holds his council membership in that city. In politics he is a Democrat.

JESSE A. HURD. An able and worthy representative of the enterprising and progressive agriculturists of Calhoun county, Jesse A. Hurd is a practical and skilful farmer, and an eminently trustworthy and valued member of his community. He was born, May 17, 1877, in Newton township, Calhoun county, which was likewise the birthplace of his parents, Frank and Delia (Eyre) Hurd.

His grandfather, Luther Hurd, who married Emma Van Fleet, was born in Vermont, being descended from a family of prominence. Coming west in early life, he settled in Calhoun county, taking up government land in Newton township. He was a keen-sighted, energetic man, and as a farmer was very prosperous, ere his death, which occurred in 1897, becoming owner of hundreds of acres of valuable land.

Born in 1855, in Newton township, Frank Hurd succeeded to the occupation of his ancestors, and was successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits in Newton township, until 1905, when he retired from active labor, and is now enjoying a life of ease and comfort. Delia Eyre, whom he married, was a daughter of John Eyre, who came from England to America as a young man settling in Calhoun county where he became highly successful as a tiller of the soil, at his death leaving to his heirs a fine estate.

Educated in the district schools, Jesse A. Hurd was trained to agricultural pursuits on his father's farm, and finding farming congenial to his tastes has continued in that occupation all of his life. In 1900 he bought the farm on which he is now living, and in its improvement has since devoted his time and energies. He has built a new house, and erected the necessary outbuildings, everything about the premises being suggestive of the thrift and good management of the proprietor of the handsome property.

Mr. Hurd is a Republican in politics, supporting the principles of his party by voice and vote. In 1901 he was elected township clerk, and served for five consecutive years. He was subsequently again elected to the same position, and is now filling the office most acceptably. Fraternally he is a member of Burlington Lodge, No. 333, Free and Accepted Order of Masons.

Mr. Hurd married, in 1902, Angie Spooner, a daughter of John Spooner, a prosperous farmer of Newton township. Mr. Spooner served four years in the Civil war, and though he took part in numerous engagements was neither wounded nor captured. He is a man of sterling integrity, and a very worthy and devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

HOSEA B. G. CARTER is one of the oldest citizens of Clarence township, Calhoun county in points of both residence and age and is a son of one of Eaton county's pioneer settlers. In 1844, when but a little child he came to Michigan with his parents and there is probably no one more familiar with the development of this section of the state during the intervening interim of sixty or more years than is Mr. Carter, there being few remaining that know by experience of the order of life that obtained here in that early day.

Hosted by Google

Timothy Carter and Charlotte Wilson, the former born in 1804 and the latter in 1809, were wedded in their native state of Massachusetts and became early settlers in Ohio, in Knox county of which state Hosea B. G. Carter, the sixth of their eleven children, was born on November 3, 1839. Along in 1844 the parents removed to Michigan and settled in Eaton county, which was then almost an unbroken wilderness, in fact so dense and large was the forest in which they located that the father had to mark a trail to reach and leave his home. He bought 160 acres, cleared it, and resided on it until a short time before his death, which occurred near Eaton Rapids. He was a wagon maker by trade and for years followed that occupation in connection with general farming, being quite successful in both lines . First a Whig and later a Republican in politics, he was a very enthusiastic adherent of the latter party and gave it staunch allegiance during the remainder of his years. He was a son of John Carter, who was born, reared and lived his life out in Massachusetts . Besides our subject there is but one other of the family now living, that being Silas N. Carter, a farmer resident of Eaton county.

Hosea B. G. Carter was reared on the Eaton county farm and received his education in the district schools of its vicinity. Responsible farm life began for him at the early age of ten and the whole of his career has since been spent as an agriculturist. His first purchase of land was an eighty acre tract, to which he has added until he now holds 160 acres. His efforts have been in the direction of general farming and he also gives much attention to the raising of stock, especially of Shropshire sheep and Short Horn cattle. In politics he is a Republican, and fraternally he is a member of Springport lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

In 1870 Mr. Carter was joined in marriage to Narcinna J. Starks, daughter of Thomas Starks, who was a well known citizen of Clarence township. Mr. Starks in an early day came to this county from New York, of which state he was a native, and settled on a homestead in Clarence township where he followed the cooper's trade in connection with farming. Mr. and Mrs. Carter are the parents of six children, but four of whom are now living. In order of birth they are as follows: D. Carter, deceased; Reba, who married Charles Devenport and resides in Clarence township; Bert, who remains at the parental home; Benjamin, deceased; Rhea, now Mrs. Frederick Leightner, of Jackson county; and Adrain, also at home.

William H. Leonard, retired farmer and capitalist of Clarence, Calhoun county, Michigan, has been a resident of the state since 1863 or 1864, in which year he came to Grand Haven from New York state, and then to Albion. He was born at Rochester, on November 5, 1840, and is the son of Asa and Mary (Latimer) Leonard, the father being born in Rochester, in 1821 and the mother in Batavia, New York, in 1824. Daniel Latimer, the father of Mrs. Leonard, was the first postmaster in San Francisco, and he, together with John Kenion, established the town of Batavia, being its first settlers. When gold was first discovered in California, Mr. Latimer went to that state, and in later years made his home in San Francisco, where he died. Asa and Mary (Latimer) Leonard were married in New York in 1842, and they became the parents of ten children, of which number William H. of this review was the third born. Four of the ten are now living. As mentioned previously, the family came to Michigan in the 80's, locating first in Detroit. Mr. Leonard was engaged in the jewelry business in Spenceport, New York, and later conducted a boot and shoe store in Fairport, that state, and also operated as a grain buyer. After locat-

Hosted by Google

ing in Detroit he made his home with his daughter, Alma, the wife of Thomas Nadill, and here he lived until his death in 1907. His widow survived him until 1910. He was a Republican and a member of the Freewill Baptist church.

The early education of William H. Leonard was of a meagre order. He attended school in Brockport, New York, for a time, and his mother taught him at home, the knowledge thus imparted representing the greater part of his book-learning. He was twenty-three years old when he came to Michigan and he made his first location at Grand Haven where he worked for an uncle as a lumber inspector. Two years later he came to Albion and went into the bakery business, remaining thus occupied for about three years, then returning to Rochester, New York, where he took up farming, the work in which he had been occupied in his early days before coming to Michigan. There he operated one of his father's large farms for a few years and in 1870 returned to Albion, Michigan, where he was engaged in conducting an estate for Dr. Stephen Monroe. He eventually purchased a portion of the estate, his purchase amounting to 429 acres in Clarence township, located on Duck Lake. He there began the operating of a saw mill, and cleared away all the timber for miles in his vicinity. The timber stripped from the lands, he sold all but two hundred and fifty acres, which is now one of the finest farms in that locality. To him belongs the credit for building the greater part of the village of Duck Lake, and he operates in the village two stores. He controls boating privileges on the lakes.

Mr. Leonard was postmaster of Duck Lake for fifteen years, and served three terms as treasurer of Clarence township. He is a Republican and has always taken an active interest in the politics of the county.

In 1860, Mr. Leonard was married to Miss Betty M. Monroe, the daughter of Leonard Monroe, of Parma, Monroe county, New York. One daughter has been born to them; Amalla, who married Arthur Starks of Clarence, the business manager for Mr. Leonard.

DR. GEORGE CLINTON HAFFORD has with the passing years become well and favorably known in and about Albion as a physician of exceptional ability, and the liberal patronage accorded to him is a speaking testimony as to the trust reposed in him in his professional capacity. His experience has been a varied one thus far, and his identification with this city has continued since May, 1897, when he succeeded to the practice of Dr. Thomason.

Born in Pierrepont Manor, Jefferson county, New York, on July 10, 1862, George Clinton Hafford, M. D., is the son of Jacob T. and Lydia (Matteson) Hafford. The family is one of English lineage, the first of the name in America coming from that "Right little, tight little Island" on the good ship "Planter" in 1635, although at a more remote period in the history of the house of Hafford it was known as De Heyford and the ancestors were residents of Wales. Thus the family became established in Massachusetts in the early part of the seventeenth century, and representatives of the name have taken their full share in the responsibilities of the nation from those days of colonial dependence down through the many changes that have been wrought in those same little dependent colonies to their present status as one of the great world powers. Jacob T. Hafford was the son of Jacob Hafford, also a native of the Empire state. During the time of the gold excitement in California, Jacob Hafford, the father of the subject, visited the Pacific Coast, but never entered deeply into the life of the mining speculator of that period. He married Miss Lydia Mat-

Hosted by Google

teson, a native of Ontario, and spent his later life engaged in farming pursuits in Milan, Michigan, until four years prior to his death, when he became a member of the household of his son, Dr. Hafford. Here he died on October 4, 1902, and his widow survived him until March 15, 1904, when her death occurred at the advanced age of seventy-six years.

Dr. Hafford as a boy pursued his early studies in the common schools of the vicinity of Milan and when he was thirteen years old entered the printing office of the *Monroe Democrat,* at Monroe, Michigan. He continued to be employed there for two years, when he was forced to give up the work, owing to an attack of lead poisoning. The boy had not neglected his studies, however, and when he recovered from his illness, while it was not deemed expedient for him to return to the print shop, he secured a position as a teacher, having successfully passed the examination for that work, and for one term he was engaged in teaching. He then entered the office of Dr. Pyle of Milan, Michigan, who directed his medical reading for a year, at the end of which time he entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He matriculated in the autumn of 1883, pursued a full three years' course, and was duly graduated with the degree of M. D. in 1887. He then entered the office of Professor Frothingham at Ann Arbor, Michigan, and in the succeeding spring went to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where in the newer country he hoped to find greater advantages for a beginner in the profession. He located in Manistique, and was there engaged in the general practice of medicine until 1895, in that time building up a wide patronage. He was in that place during the time when the Soo Line was being built, and his practice extended over many miles of the road. In 1895, when the depression in business as a result of lumber conditions was at its height, Dr. Hafford left Manistique, severing his connection with the Soo Line and became surgeon for the Bay de Noquet Lumber Company, at Nahma, Delta county, Michigan, and was engaged thus for three and a half years. His growing family, however, awakened in him the desire to provide better educational advantages for them than was possible in his surroundings at Nahma, and although making rapid progress in his profession and having a wide practice in that district, he gave up his work there and moved with his family to Albion, where he has since been located.

While located at Nahma, Dr. Hafford pursued a course in the Post Graduate school in New York, spending the summer of 1893 in that institution, and he afterwards took special work in Chicago in the study of the diseases of women, and modern surgical practice. In May, 1897, he located at Albion,, as the successor of Dr. H. D. Thomason, and he has since come to be recognized as one of the most capable general practitioners in this section of the state. In the summer of 1903 Dr. Hafford took special work in the University of Michigan, and his general and specific knowledge of the science of medicine has been consistently and continuously widened by the most careful study at various noted clinics in different parts of the country and rigid investigations.

Dr. Hafford was formerly president of the Calhoun County Medical Society, and is now the first vice president of the State Medical Society. He has also held other important positions in connection with that organization, including that of chairman of the surgery section. He is a member of the Tri-State Medical Society, the American Medical Association and is a member of various county medical societies in Michigan. His standing in his profession is clearly indicated by the numerous official honors which his confreres have bestowed upon

Hosted by Google

him in connection with the various organizations with which he is affiliated.

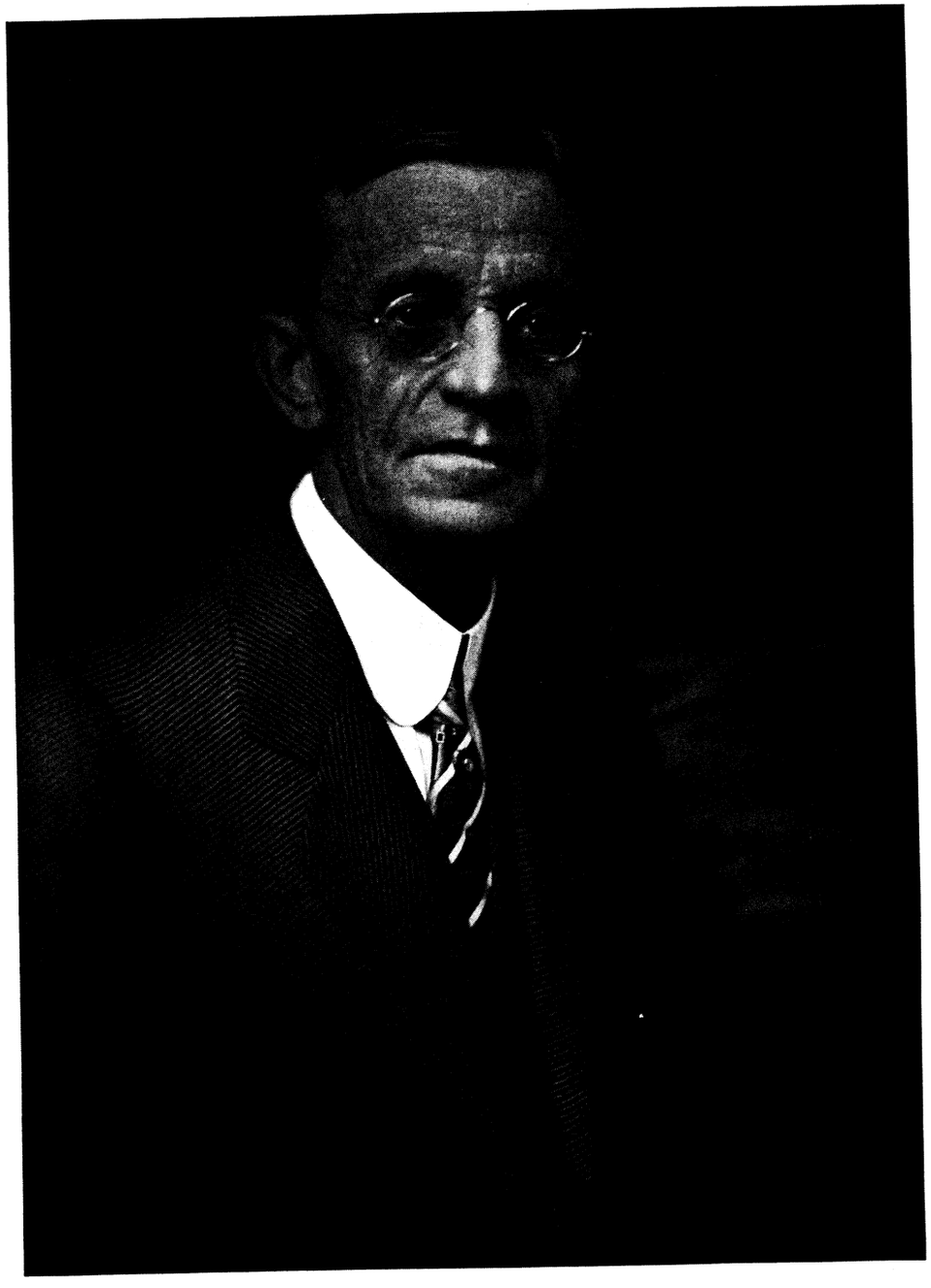
On the day that he was graduated from the State University, June 30, 1887, Dr. Hafford was united in marriage with Miss Cora E. Ulsaver, of Saline, Michigan, a daughter of Stephen Ulsaver. Five children have been born to them: Alpheus Tisdale; Clinton S.; Doris; Cora and Clarence E. Dr. Hafford and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian church. The doctor is fraternally identified by his membership in the Masonic order, and was first made a Mason at Manistique, Michigan, when he became a member of Lakeside Lodge No. 371, F. & A. M. but is now a member of Murat Lodge, No. 14, of Albion. He is likewise a member of the chapter and council and commandery. He is a member of both the subordinate lodge and the uniform rank of the Knights of Pythias and was formerly surgeon-major of the First Battalion of the Third Regiment of the Michigan Brigade, comprising the four companies of Battle Creek, Charlotte, Albion and Mason. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and various other fraternal societies.

Dr. Hafford is a Democrat, and has served his city in a public way as alderman from the Fourth ward to fill a vacancy, and later for a full term. He has been chairman of the finance committee, and great credit has been laid at his door as having done more than any other one man in Albion to establish the first city paving, the work being effected in 1903. He also was especially active in securing the passage of the ordinances granting street lighting and the electric railway franchise. He has also served a number of years as health officer of the city and is at present a member of the school board, and while at Manistique was a member of the pension board.

William Edward Ware was born in Allegan county, Michigan, December 19, 1850. His parents were Sylvester S. and Judith E. (Watkins) Ware. His father was born in Vermont and his mother at Naples, near Watkins' Glen, New York. They were married in Indiana, and soon thereafter removed to Allegan county, where they resided but a short time when they came to Athens, in this county. They continued living at Athens until 1861, when they located at Colon, Michigan, where they continued to reside until 1863, when they again removed to Athens.

While living in Colon the father built a mill for the manufacture of interior finishing materials, and continued in the operation of it while he remained there. Soon after his return to Athens he improved the water power and constructed another mill of the same character which he operated there for many years. During that time he constructed many dwellings and other buildings throughout the county, a considerable number of which are still in good condition as proof of the stability of his work. While a resident of Athens, he went to North Dakota, where he made entry upon a considerable tract of government land, but his frail constitution could not endure the rigors of that climate and he died there January 23, 1873. Physical disability prevented him from serving in the field during the war, but he took a very active part in his vicinity in raising troops and funds and subscribed liberally to the Union cause. He was an ardent anti-slavery Whig in politics, a student and debator of more than average ability and was a member of the Masonic order. He and his wife, for many years and up to the time of their death, were members of the Methodist church. The wife died at Union City, Michigan, February, 8, 1877. His father, who died in early manhood while he was yet a small boy,

Hosted by Google



Wm E. Ware.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

located in Michigan previous to 1836 and was one of the early pioneers and ministers of the Presbyterian church in that state.

Sylvester S. and Judith E. Ware were parents of four children, one of whom died in infancy. William E. is the oldest. His brother, Charles Clark Ware, for nearly twenty-five years has been connected with the Toledo (Ohio) Humane Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals and children, having for the past twenty-one years and upwards been its superintendent and chief agent, a position which he still holds. During that time he has made a remarkable record for efficiency. He is one of the organizers and officers of the State Federation of Humane Societies for Ohio, and is an active worker in the National Humane Association. The only daughter, Carrie Belle, who died near Mendon, in September, 1909, was the wife of Charles Gunthorpe, who died in 1907, and their one child, Veva, is now living near Union City, Michigan.

William E. Ware, after his education in the village schools of Athens and Colon was completed, began the study of law at Marshall, Michigan, under James A. Minor, one of the leading lawyers of the place at the time and afterwards a federal judge in Utah, his death occurring while on the bench. When young Ware began the study of law in June, 1872, he was a green country boy, wearing a salt-and-pepper suit two sizes too large for him. His father approved of the suit, however, saying the boy would soon grow so it would fit him. Despite such equipment, the lad settled down to hard study and after the first few months maintained himself without expense to his father, and in a few years was in the midst of a career full of public activity.

In January, 1875, he moved to Union City, Michigan, and it was during that summer and the following winter that he became especially interested in the currency question. This question was beginning to agitate the people at this time and there were few who had given the matter as much thought as had the young law student. As early as March, 1876, widespread interest had developed in the question and he was invited by a large number of the older citizens of LeRoy township to speak to a political meeting in their schoolhouse. This was the first speech of the many to come in his long and active career.

From this time forth Mr. Ware was deeply involved in politics. During the summer of 1876 and the campaign that followed, he made many speeches throughout southern Michigan and northern Indiana, everywhere speaking to houses that were crowded to their utmost capacity, or to open air meetings attended by several thousand people. His main subject was the currency.

In the meantime he continued his studies under the direction of Marc. A. Merrifield, a prominent lawyer of Union City, and was admitted to the bar at Coldwater upon examination in open court, in June, 1878. While living at Union City, he held the position of city attorney from 1876 to 1879, in the fall of 1879 removing to Coldwater. In the campaign of 1878, Mr. Ware was nominated for the office of prosecuting attorney of Branch county upon the Greenback ticket. At this time there were three tickets in the field, Republican, Democratic and Greenback. Mr. Ware made numerous speeches that summer throughout the southern part of the state, in defense of the principles for which his party stood. The Republicans carried most of the offices, Mr. Ware being defeated by a majority of sixty-seven as shown by the official count. These were in the days before the Australian ballot system was in operation, and Mr. Ware learned ten years later that ballots bearing his name were taken out and others substituted by one of the inspectors of election so that his defeat was assured.

Hosted by Google

Upon removing to Coldwater, Mr. Ware became the junior member of the firm of Thompson and Ware, his partner being the late Judge Thompson, one of the old members of the Branch county bar. Severing his relations with Judge Thompson, he opened an office of his own at Coldwater, in the spring of 1880, where he continued in the practice of his profession for a number of years, his reputation as an attorney of ability increasing from year to year.

During this time Mr. Ware had been extremely busy in politics. During the campaign of 1880 he took only a nominal part, not being in sympathy with the arrangement between the Democratic and Greenback parties whereby a joint ticket was agreed upon. He was nominated on this ticket for prosecuting attorney but was defeated with the rest of the ticket. In 1882, when throughout the state the Greenback and Democratic parties united forces, Mr. Ware could no longer support his party and again affiliated with the Republican party, making a large number of speeches throughout Southern Michigan. From that time forward he worked actively, delivering many speeches in each campaign for the standard of the Republican party to 1896. During all of these campaigns, his name was always a prominent one among the speakers listed for meetings all over the state, and since this was in the days when men obtained their political ideas, not from the newspapers, but from listening to the speeches of the men who really knew something about the questions of the day, his influence was telling and effective. He was ever the advocate of policies in advance of the time. In the campaign of 1884 he was especially active in the support of James G. Blaine for the presidency of the United States. He regarded him at the time, and still looks upon him, as one of the most brilliant and able men the country has ever known, an opinion that, as people are able to get a proper perspective, is becoming more and more general; and historians of today are exceedingly regretful that James G. Blaine was not permitted to hold the highest office in the gift of the people.

The position which Mr. Ware took on the currency question, and which he supported ardently until this question was settled once and for all in 1896, was in favor of the bimetallic standard. He believed and advocated government control of not only silver and gold, but paper money. He believed also that every dollar of whatever material, should be just as good as every other dollar, and one of his greatest fears for the country was that the money would come into the control of private interests. He foresaw that if this happened the result would be panics, great combinations of capital for the enriching of the few, and general unrest in the world of business. He was never in favor of the "fiat money" theory, but during the times when the greenback was being taken out of circulation and the National bank currency established by the government, his slogan was "Save the greenback."

Among other reforms that Mr. Ware advocated was the establishment of a Postal Savings bank; the conservation of natural resources; the holding of public lands for actual settlers; a tariff system to offset the difference between the cost of labor here and in foreign countries; and the doctrine of reciprocity, which was first advocated by James G. Blaine, met his hearty approval and received his enthusiastic support. The national surplus he believed should be used for internal improvements, and he thought the financial system of the country should be so controlled by the government that its elasticity would be such as to prevent the possibility of a scarcity of currency. One might suppose that his political interests would have taken him away from his law practice to a considerable extent, but not so. He was still the same hard working lawyer as of old, and his practice had now grown to be a large and

Hosted by Google

important one. In 1887 he went into partnership with Elmer E. Palmer, who was then a young attorney in Coldwater, and who is now one of the ablest lawyers in southern Michigan. Mr. Ware was a member of the Coldwater board of education in 1881 and 1882, having been elected to the office on the Republican ticket. In the campaign of 1886 he was elected on that ticket as prosecuting attorney of Branch county, an office which he held for two successive terms, also receiving his second election as a Republican. A third nomination was offered him by a vote of eighty-nine of the one hundred and nine delegates in the county convention, but he declined the nomination, and in the fall of 1891 removed to Jackson, there entering a partnership with Richard Price, then, as now, a lawyer of that city, the new firm being known as Ware & Price. In September, 1892, Mr. Ware entered into a partnership with Charles H. Smith, one of the prominent attorneys there, who for some years past has been a federal judge in the Philippines, still holding that position.

His partnership with Mr. Smith continued about four years, and during that period their offices were Republican headquarters, both being active as Silver Republicans. In 1896 his views on the currency question led him to support Bryan instead of McKinley. In doing this he contends that he did not leave the party, but that the party left him and, in support of his position, calls attention to the Republican platforms in this state prior to that year. He was present at the conference convention held in Lansing that year, at which was inaugurated the movement towards the consolidation of the opposition in Michigan to the gold standard plank in the Republican national platform. He "walked out" of the McKinley convention, following Teller, DuBois, Towne and others and, returning to Jackson, called a Silver Republican county convention. The response was immediate and enthusiastic, eighty-nine "old line" Republicans of the county met in convention and organized a county committee with representatives from each ward and township in the county. The chairman of this committee was Mr. Ware. The campaign that year was opened in Jackson by the calling of three conventions, the Populist, the Democratic and Silver Republicans, all of whom were in opposition to the gold standard. Conference committees were appointed by each of the three and a joint ticket was agreed upon, in which Mr. Ware was named for register of deeds. He was at the time city attorney of Jackson, but after a most exciting campaign, in which he delivered many earnest appeals in the county and throughout the state against the establishment of a gold standard, he was elected to the office of register of deeds. The state convention of the Silver Republicans that year was attended by more than seven hundred and fifty Republican members, and Mr. Ware, being one of the conference committee appointed, became the author of the famous party vignette which was placed at the head of the ticket, consisting of the silver dollar with the words, "Sixteen to One."

In 1896, Mr. Ware dissolved his partnership with Mr. Smith, and, except while serving as register of deeds, practiced alone in Jackson until 1903, when he removed to Battle Creek where he has since maintained his offices in the *Post* building. He held the office of register of deeds until 1898, but since 1900 has not been active in politics. During 1909 and 1910 he was city attorney of Battle Creek.

Since the settlement of the currency question Mr. Ware has continued to affiliate with the Republicans, but is in hearty sympathy with the progressive element of that party. He has always believed that a man should decide political questions for himself and exercise independence in voting, not casting his ballot for a man because he is the candidate of his party, but because he himself considers him the best man for the

Hosted by Google

position, or that the principles he stands for are the best for the nation.

Mr. Ware is a member of the Masonic order and affiliated with the A. T. Metcalf lodge, No. 419, Free and Accepted Masons of Battle Creek, and Jackson Chapter No. 3, Royal Arch Masons, of Jackson. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Knights of the Modern Maccabees, of Jackson. His church is the Presbyterian and he and his family have long been members of it. Their home is at the corner of Cleveland and East Fountain streets.

On October 22, 1879, Mr. Ware was united in marriage with Miss Elva V. Wood. Her father, S. H. Wood, was for many years proprietor of the "Old Pine Creek House," one of the old time hotels on the Battle Creek road, four miles north of Athens, and was well known as an extensive stock buyer as well. Mrs. Ware was born at Athens in the Old Pine Creek House, which in its palmy days was a popular stopping place for the many farmers and others driving to and from Battle Creek, which was then the market for that territory. She received her education in the country schools near her home and at the Union City high school, from which she graduated. Mr. and Mrs. Ware have one son, Donald R. Ware, who was born at Coldwater, September 7, 1884, and was educated in the Jackson schools. He is now a stock and bond salesman and insurance man. He was married in August, 1910, to Miss Maud McTaggart, of Battle Creek, which is still their home.

As a citizen, Mr. Ware has always maintained a high standard for business integrity and fair dealing and, while holding well defined and clear opinions upon the important questions arising from time to time, he has always respected the opinions of others when honestly expressed, and met in a spirit of fairness those opposed to him in business, political or social affairs.

Among the members of his own profession Mr. Ware is known as a careful and efficient lawyer, and it is said of him that he possesses an unusually keen and analytical mind which invariably grasps the important elements of a question and is quick to take advantage of every opportunity. As a trial lawyer he always carefully prepares his cases, and, when the trial begins starts an aggressive fight which never ends or waivers until the case is submitted for the decision of the court or jury. Although a skilful trial lawyer he never depends upon forensic eloquence alone to win his cases, but by hard and persistent work in his office prepares for every contingency which can be foreseen, giving to the slightest detail the same careful attention which characterizes all of his work. He will always be remembered by those who have known him as a good citizen, a true friend and genial companion, an able lawyer loyal to his clients, and an indefatigable worker and persistent and tireless fighter for any cause which he espouses.

ZACHARIAH B. MOHLER, one of the most successful and prosperous farmers in Le Roy township, is the descendant of one of the oldest German families in the United States today. The Mohlers came to America from Germany in about 1660, and settled in the eastern part of the country. The family has spread in numbers and is now to be found in practically every state in the Union, and wherever they are found, the family name is upheld by the staunch and sturdy German blood that flows in the veins of all who bear the good old name.

Born in Canton, Ohio, on April 12, 1865, Z. B. Mohler, is the son of Henry and Harriet (Beck) Mohler. The father was born in Canton in 1839, and the mother in Akron, Ohio, in 1843. He was a farmer and coal miner, and still lives in the state where he was born. He was a soldier in the Sixteenth Ohio Volunteers and served two and a half

Hosted by Google

years in the Civil war. Returning from the war, he took up his life where he had left it off, and he still lives in the old Ohio home. He is the son of John Mohler, born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, who moved to Ohio in early life and there settled. The maternal grandfather of Mr. Mohler of this review, was a native of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Mohler was educated in the public schools of Canton, Ohio, and when he was twenty years old he made his way to Michigan. He found himself in Battle Creek in the year 1885 with three dollars in his pockets, which constituted his entire wealth at that time. He went to work on a farm and in 1894, nine years from the date of his arrival here, he bought his first farm of one hundred and twenty-seven acres. This he has increased until he now owns two hundred and forty acres, and he has erected fine buildings of every required variety on the place. The farm is a model of convenience and modern improvements, and is easily one of the finest kept places in the township. In addition to this splendid farm, Mr. Mohler is the owner of two houses and lots in Battle Creek.

Mr. Mohler is one of the popular men of his community and occupies a prominent place in the affairs of the township, as well as in the esteem and respect of his fellow citizens. He has been a member of the school board for nine years, and is in every way a citizen worthy of the name.

In 1890, Mr. Mohler married Miss Minnie Frohm, a daughter of Joseph Frohm, a native of Germany, but who passed the latter years of his life in Michigan. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Mohler,—May B., who became the wife of Shirley Lossing, and Laura H., who is single and remains in the parental home as yet. The family are members of the Congregational church.

ARTHUR LAMBERT GRAVES, one of the successful farmers of Calhoun county, and a native of the state, was born in Barry county on May 31, 1865. He is the son of James I. and Amanda (Aldrich) Graves, a farmer, born in Monroe county in 1838, who was reared and educated in that county. In his young manhood he went to Barry county and undertook the clearing up of a piece of wild land, and in 1867 he moved to Calhoun county and there bought a small farm of eighty acres. Later he was able to add to his holdings an additional forty acres, and this farm, which he improved and worked until it had reached a high state of cultivation, was his home until he died in 1908. Mr. Graves was one of the important men of his community, and for twenty years was a member of the school board. He was a well known and successful farmer, and one who took a leading part in all the affairs of the civic life of the community. He was a Republican in his political allegiance. His father, Isaac Graves, was born in New York, and came to Michigan in his young manhood. He settled in Monroe county, where he passed the remainder of his life. He died young, and his son, James I., the father of Arthur Lambert Graves, was adopted by one Mr. Lambert, a friend of the family living in their community, and reared by him. The maternal grandfather of Mr. Graves of this review was Joseph Aldrich, who came to Michigan in early life and settled on a farm in Barry county. He passed the remainder of his days there, passing away on his farm home after a well spent life. The mother of Arthur Graves died in 1906, at the age of sixty-four years.

Mr. Graves was educated in the country schools, and early became acquainted with hard work incidental to farm life. His father was an invalid from the time the son was nine years old, and much fell to the young shoulders that might otherwise have been spared him for years to

Hosted by Google

come. However, he learned early the details of successful farming, and in 1907 Mr. Graves bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He owns forty acres of the old homestead. He carries on a general farming industry, and is known for one of the prosperous men of the community.

In 1896 Mr. Graves married Mrs. Mary (Luce) Bonnie, a daughter of Albert Luce, who was a prominent farmer and minister and a brother of ex-Governor Cyrus Luce. Mr. Luce was one of the successful and prominent men of Calhoun county, in which he was well known and highly esteemed. Mr. and Mrs. Graves are the parents of one son, Harry, still attending school.

The family are members of the Congregational church of Le Roy, and Mr. and Mrs. Graves are members of the Grange. She is a member of the Royal Neighbors and the Maccabees. Mr. Graves is a Republican and displays an active and intelligent interest in the activities of the party, but is not politically ambitious, being content rather to operate his farm to the best of his ability and live quietly and contentedly on his home place.

FRANK G. STERLING. A prominent, enterprising and progressive agriculturist of Calhoun county, Frank G. Sterling has a fine home and farm in Penfield township, his estate in regard to its appointments and improvements comparing favorably with any in that locality, giving evidence to the passer-by of the wise management and thrift of the proprietor. He is one of the strong men of the community and enjoys the respect of every one with whom he is acquainted.

A son of the late George S. Sterling, he was born on the 27th of April, 1857, in Battle Creek, Michigan. The Sterling family originated in Scotland, and some of them went from Scotland into England and thence to America. Lord Sterling, who was the father of George S. Sterling, was descended from these early settlers from England. He was born, lived and died in New York state, and here his son George was born on the 15th of April, 1815. He was one of a family of twelve, and grew up in the state of his birth, where he received a fair education as education went in those days. He came to Michigan and located on a farm near Three Rivers, making the journey by the Erie canal and by wagon from Detroit. The canal had only recently been opened and was still a nine days' wonder, and the busy teeming life of this great thoroughfare opened the eyes of the young traveler to a new world. He went back to Lima, New York, after about five years spent in Michigan, and bought a farm near the town. It was while living here that his first wife died. Her maiden name was Martha Backus, and she was a native of West Bloomfield, New Jersey. There were three girls by this marriage. Mrs. Julia Roberts, married the late Rev. W. S. Roberts. She was born in Three Rivers, Michigan, and is now living in Stamford, Connecticut. Mrs. Anna L. Scott, the wife of the late Sidney Scott of Battle Creek. Mrs. L. Arthur Beadle died in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1907.

Mr. Sterling came to Battle Creek in the spring of 1855 and went into partnership with D. B. Burnham, carrying on an extensive hardware business, under the name of Burnham and Sterling. Their place of business was located where the American Steam Pump Company is now. He also was engaged in the manufacture of plows and other agricultural implements. In July, 1856, he was married again to Miss Emily A. Carter of Battle Creek. She was a native of East Bloomfield, New York, and she and Mr. Sterling became the parents of six children, of whom five are living. Frank G. the oldest is a resident of Penfield township. George C. was killed in Battle Creek during the summer of 1911,

Hosted by Google

in a Michigan Central Railway accident. Mrs. John Powell and Agnes Sterling both live in Marshall, Michigan. Mrs. W. A. Wood lives in Decatur, Michigan, and Fred S. Sterling resides in Battle Creek. The firm of Burnham and Sterling continued for about ten years, and Mr. Sterling became known as one of the active and successful men of Battle Creek. Upon retiring from the mercantile business he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Penfield township and here he lived until 1880, when he sold this farm and bought another of the same area near Marshall, Michigan. Here he lived for a number of years, till he finally decided to retire from active life, and moved to Marshall, living here until his death on the 28th of December, 1893. His wife died on the 5th of July, 1904. Mr. Sterling's death was a great loss to the community, but fortunately he left sons and daughters who were faithful to the high ideals of their parents, and who have brought honor to the name of Sterling.

Of these, Frank G. is the oldest son. Educated in Battle Creek, he worked for his father until he was twenty years old, when he spent a season in Kansas. Not pleased with his prospects in that state, he returned to Michigan, and re-entered his father's employ, traveling on the road as salesman for a short time. Turning towards the soil, he then invested his money in land, buying a farm east of Battle Creek, and there being successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. Mr. Sterling bought two hundred acres of rich and fertile land in Pennfield township, and in its improvement has found both pleasure and profit, his estate being one of the most attractive in this section of the county. He is a sound Republican in politics, but has never been an aspirant for official honors.

Mr. Sterling married, on the 30th of May, 1883, Lottie A. Beadle, a daughter of Joseph G. Beadle, who came from New York to Michigan about 1852, and lived for many years in Kalamazoo county, although he is now a resident of New York. Mr. and Mrs. Sterling are the parents of nine children, namely: Arthur G., a draftsman, who resides in Detroit; Kate E., a teacher in the rural schools of Calhoun county; George R. is employed in a store in Battle Creek; Marjorie; Clara L.; Everett E.; Sidney; Harold R.; and Theodore R. Five of these children are still attending school.

RAY C. STONE, M. D. Dr. Stone has been established in the practice of his profession in Battle Creek since 1906 and is known as one of the able, ambitious and successful physicians and surgeons of Calhoun county, as well as a liberal and progressive citizen. He is an enthusiast in his exacting profession and keeps in close touch with the advances made in both medicine and surgery. The estimate placed upon him by his confreres in the profession is measureably indicated by the fact that he is at the present time (1912) secretary of the Calhoun County Medical Society and Secretary of the surgical section of the Michigan State Medical Society .

Dr. Ray Clinton Stone was born in the city of Ionia, Michigan, the judicial center of the county of the same name, and the date of his nativity was September 9, 1879. He is a son of Charles W. and Mary (Merritt) Stone, the former of whom was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, and the latter at Ionia, Michigan, June 26, 1849, and a member of one of the old and honored pioneer families of that section of the state. She passed the closing period of her gentle and gracious life in Battle Creek, where she died on May 21, 1911. Charles W. Stone was engaged in the dry goods business at Ionia for more than thirty years and was a citizen who wielded much influence in the civic and business affairs

Hosted by Google

of the city, where he served as alderman and as a member of the board of public works. He still maintains his home in Battle Creek and is a traveling representative in the middle west for the Kalamazoo Corset Company. Of the two sons and two daughters, three are living; the elder son, Glenn, having died at the age of 40. Ethel is the wife of L. R. Gault of Detroit, and Eleanor is the wife of Charles A. LeFever of La Porte, Indiana.

Dr. Stone gained his early education in the public schools of his native state and city, and after the removal of the family from Ionia to Battle Creek he attended the high school from which he retired about three months prior to the time of his class graduation. In 1901 he was matriculated in the Detroit College of Medicine, in which he completed the prescribed curriculum and was graduated as a member of the class of 1904. After receiving his degree of Doctor of Medicine he served as house physician for one year in the children's free hospital department of Harper Hospital, one of the fine institutions of Detroit, and for the ensuing year he was physician and surgeon for the Dolores Mines Company, in Mexico. In November, 1906, he opened an office in Battle Creek, where he has since continued in active general practice and where he has built up a substantial and representative professional business. He holds membership in the Calhoun County Medical Society, of which he is secretary, as previously noted, and in addition to being actively identified with the Michigan State Medical Society, of whose surgical section he is secretary, he is also a member of the American Medical Association. In his home city he is a member of the Athelstan and Country Clubs, and both he and his wife attend the Independent Congregational church. His offices are located at No. 308 Ward building and his home is at No. 25 Adams street.

On the 4th of October, 1911, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Stone to Miss Jane Pryor, who was born and reared at Houghton, Michigan, and who is a daughter of James and Mary J. (Gale) Pryor, well known residents of that thriving little city of the copper district of the state. Mrs. Stone completed her education in the private school of Miss Knox, at Briarcliff, New York, and she is a most popular factor in the social activities of her home city.

At the present writing, Dr. and Mrs. Stone are absent on a European tour, and will return to their home about January 1, 1913.

DALE M. DOBBINS. The Dobbins Hardware Company, at 36 East Main street, is one of the largest and most progressive establishments of the kind in Calhoun county. It was founded in 1907, and succeeded the old hardware house of Pittman & Coates. The business is incorporated, and the officers are: Dale M. Dobbins, president and treasurer; S. F. Dobbins, of Marshall, vice president; and George P. Barth, secretary.

Dale M. Dobbins represents a family that has long been prominent in the business affairs and citizenship of Calhoun county. He was born at Marshall on June 9, 1885, and is the son of Samuel Fremont and Maria (Mitchell) Dobbins. His mother died in 1908. Samuel F. Dobbins, the father, is proprietor of the Marshall Furnace Company, one of the principal manufacturing industries at Marshall, and is also on the directorate of the First National Bank of Marshall. Dale M. is the oldest of the three sons in the family, his brothers being Charles W. and Samuel F., Jr., both at home in Marshall.

Though Mr. Dobbins has been successfully identified with business since he was twenty-two years old, he had previously prepared himself

Hosted by Google

for a professional career. After his graduation from the Marshall high school in 1902, he entered Kenyon College at Gambier, Ohio, and later the law department of the University of Michigan, where he was graduated in the class of 1907. However, he has never practiced, since in the same year as his graduation he established the present hardware business, and has devoted all his time and energies to the development of a large mercantile concern. The business was incorporated under the present title in March, 1908. Mr. Dobbins is also a stockholder in the Marshall Furnace Company.

His politics is Republican, and both in business and social circles he is one of the influential young men of this city. He is a member of the Athelstan Club, the Country Club and the Elks Lodge of Battle Creek, and is also affiliated with the Masons and the Knights of Pythias at Marshall, being a member of the St. Albans Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and the Knight Templar Commandery No. 17, and the K. P. Lodge No. 179. Mr. Dobbins has erected an attractive residence at the corner of Garrison and Henry streets.

On June 15, 1912, Mr. Dobbins was united in marriage to Holly E., daughter of the late Edward L. and Helen (Bailey) Murphy of Marshall, Michigan. Mrs. Dobbins received her education in the schools of Marshall and finished at Battle Creek, graduating in music from the Battle Creek Conservatory of Music. Mrs. Dobbins' father was a prominent drygoods man of Marshall.

JAMES A. ENGLE. Calhoun county, Michigan, includes among its representative farmers and highly respected citizens, James A. Engle, R. F. D. No. 4, Tekonsha. Mr. Engle is a native of this township and was born January 25, 1859, son of James T. and Ellen J. (Watson) Engle.

James T. Engle was born in New York in 1823, son of John and Julia (Frayer) Engle, natives of New York. The grandparents were past middle life when they came west to Michigan, and here they spent the rest of their days and died in Tekonsha township. It was in 1845 that James T. Engle came to Michigan. He settled on an eighty-acre farm in Tekonsha township, which he cleared and improved and on which he spent the rest of his life. In 1876 he replaced his original farm house with one more commodious and attractive, and his last years were spent in comfort. His death occurred in 1882. His wife also is deceased. She was born in New York in 1831, daughter of George Watson, a veteran of the war of 1812, who lived in Michigan for a number of years, and died near Albion, at the age of eighty-eight years. James T. Engle and wife were the parents of five children, of whom James A. was the fourth born and is one of the four now living, namely : Charles, of Burlington, Michigan; Frank W., of Tekonsha township; Fred G. of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and James A.

James A. Engle was reared on his father's farm. In his youth he learned the carpenter's trade, and has alternated that with farming. He is now the owner of 130 acres of land, which he devotes to general farming, and on which he has made numerous improvements, including his own beautiful home, his house representing his own plans and handicraft.

Mr. Engle was married in 1885 and he and his wife are the parents of two children, Clayton L. and James T., the former employed in a grocery store at Albion, the latter in school. Mrs. Engle, formerly Miss Lena A. Phelps, is a daughter of John A. and Adelia (Blashfield) Phelps, both natives of Michigan. Her grandparents came to Michigan at an

Hosted by Google

early day and settled in Clarendon township, Calhoun county, where they lived and died, both dying during the Civil war period.

Politically, Mr. Engle is a Prohibitionist. Mrs. Engle is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

WILLIAM H. PALMITER. Numbered among the thrifty and successful agriculturists of Calhoun county is William H. Palmiter, who is likewise a fine representative of the self-made men of his community, having through his own efforts acquired a fair share of this world's goods, at the same time winning by his upright dealings the respect and good will of his fellow-associates. He was born, February 2, 1858, in Convis township, Calhoun county, Michigan, a son of Alonzo Palmiter. His paternal grandfather, Enos Palmiter, was born and reared in Kentucky. Becoming licensed as a local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal church, he was engaged in his pastoral labors in different places in New York, Ohio, and Michigan, spending his last days in the latter state, his death occurring about 1880, at the venerable age of eighty-nine years.

Born in New York state, Alonzo Palmiter spent a part of his early life in Ohio. Coming from there to Calhoun county, Michigan, he purchased land in Convis township, where for many years he successfully carried on general farming. Retiring from active pursuits, he spent the later days of his long life with a daughter at Battle Creek, Michigan, passing away in October, 1905. He married Fannie Cooley, who died in January, 1905, but a few months before he did. Her father, Almon Cooley, came to Michigan when a young man, and having purchased a tract of wild land near Jackson improved a good farm, and there resided until his death.

One of a family of seven children, W. H. Palmiter acquired his early education in the district schools, and under his father's instructions became familiar with the different branches of agriculture. Choosing for his life work the independent occupation of his immediate ancestors, he began his active career by working as a farm hand for six years. Diligent, faithful and thrifty, he accumulated some money, which he wisely invested in forty acres of land in Calhoun county. Success attended him, and as his means increased Mr. Palmiter bought more land, now owning in addition to his first purchase the one hundred and sixty acres included in his home farm, which is advantageously located in the vicinity of Battle Creek. Mr. Palmiter is quite prominent in local affairs, especially in the Republican ranks, and is now serving as a member of the Board of Review. For fifteen years he was a member of the local board of school directors.

On March 25, 1884, Mr. Palmiter was united in marriage with Ada L. Palmerton, who is of French lineage, the immigrant ancestor from which she is descended having been one Sylvanus Palmerton, who came from France to America in colonial days, and with the English fought in the French and Indian wars. Her father, John B. Palmerton, was born in New York state in 1824. With his parents he came to Michigan in 1835, settling first in Albion, from there moving, in 1838, to Pennfield township. He subsequently engaged in farming on his own account, and in his operations met with much success, bringing his land to a high state of cultivation, his estate being one of the most desirable in the township. He lived to a good old age, passing away in July, 1908, having lived on the subject's farm for 70 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Palmiter are the parents of four children, namely: Clarence A., employed in the Rumley shops at Battle Creek; Floyd J., working for his father; Edith M.; and William L., living at home with his parents. The children attend the Union Methodist Episcopal church.

Hosted by Google

MYRON L. BRIGGS. The history of a nation is nothing more than a history of the individuals comprising it, and as they are characterized by loftier or lower ideals, actuated by the spirit of ambition or indifference, so it is with a state, county or town. Success along any line of endeavor would never be properly appreciated if it came with a single effort and unaccompanied by some hardships, for it is the knocks and bruises in life that make success taste so sweet. The failures accentuate the successes, thus making recollections of the former as dear as those of the latter for having been stepping-stones to achievement. The career of Myron L. Briggs, who has had every difficulty to contend with, having lost both of his legs in an accident, but accentuates the fact that success is bound to come to those who join brains with ambition and are willing to work. Mr. Briggs is the owner of a fine farm in Pennfield township and the same was accumulated by his own unaided endeavors.

Myron L. Briggs was born in Gratiot county, Michigan, December 12, 1867, and he is a son of Horace and Helen (Miles) Briggs, both of whom were born and reared in the state of New York. Horace Briggs went to Ohio and thence he came to Michigan, locating on a farm in the vicinity of Jackson, in 1843. He was the owner of a half section of land and farmed the same until his demise, in 1903, at the age of eighty years. He was a money-maker and a successful business man. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, six of whom are living in 1912 and of whom Myron L. was the fifth in order of birth. The maternal grandfather of the subject of this review, came to Michigan from New York and settled on a farm on the ground where the state capital of Michigan now stands.

To the district schools of his native place Mr. Briggs is indebted for his educational training. He has always been a farmer, with the exception of two years when he was conductor and motorman on the street car line at Grand Rapids. It was during that time that he had both legs cut off in an accident. Mr. Briggs started in life with a capital of one dollar and inasmuch as he is now the owner of a fine farm of ninety acres of more arable land in Battle Creek township, his success is the more gratifying to contemplate. His land is well improved and he has a beautiful new home on it. He devotes his attention to general farming and, although so severely crippled, he works all the time, driving his mowers and turning his hand to almost any of the farm work. In politics Mr. Briggs gives a stanch allegiance to the principles and policies for which the Republican party stands sponsor in all matters affecting the welfare of the nation but in local politics he maintains an independent attitude, voting for the best man. He has served as school director in his township. In a fraternal way he is affiliated with the Knights of the Maccabees and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a man of broad mind and liberal views and, having had troubles of his own, he is deeply and sincerely sympathetic with all who find life a difficult problem.

January 21, 1900, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Briggs to Miss Mary McArdil, a daughter of John McArdil, who was born in Ireland, whence he came to America at the age of sixteen years. He was a peddler for some time after coming to this country but eventually settled on a farm in Calhoun county, Michigan, where he passed the remainder of his days. Mr. McArdil was well known throughout his section of the country. Mr. and Mrs. Briggs have no children.

RAY E. HART. Among the residents of Calhoun county who are especially worthy of notice as having been active in the improvement and prosperity of the county and have built up admirable reputations in good citizenship should be numbered Ray E. Hart, now serving upon his third

Hosted by Google

term as county clerk. Not only has Mr. Hart proved a fine public official, with an eye single to the good of his constituents, but he also has been identified with the industrial life of the section. He has in addition to the interests above noted a fine stock farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Indiana, which he has carried on most successfully.

By the circumstance of birth Mr. Hart belongs to the Hawkeye state, his eyes having first opened to the light of day in Marion county, Iowa, November 24, 1875. He is the son of Russell A. and Buena Vista (Morrison) Hart, the father a native of Vermont and the mother of Illinois. The former engaged in farming in the Green Mountain state until about the age of twenty-six years and then entered the ministry of the Seventh Day Adventist church, in which he continued until 1884, when he was sent to Battle Creek as superintendent of The Review & Herald Publishing Association. In 1888 and 1889 he was sent to Norway by the General Conference of his church and for twelve months had charge of the publishing house at Copenhagen. He succeeded in putting that institution which was nearly bankrupt on its feet and then returned to America. He then engaged in the manufacturing of printers' supplies at Battle Creek and has ever since remained in this field, being now in that business, and also in contracting and building, his offices being located at 42 Lincoln street. There were three children in the family, Ray E. being the second in order of nativity. The two daughters, Minnie O. and Lelah May are neither at home. The former is teaching school in an Adventist Academy at Akron, Ohio, and the latter, an artist of ability, has a china studio in Denver, Colorado. The three children are natives of Marion county, Iowa. Their histories have been further coincident in that all received their educations in the Battle Creek public schools and subsequently in the Seventh Day Adventist college here.

Ray E. Hart is one of Calhoun's leading young Republicans and his influence is of weight in party councils. His first office was under Governor Bliss, the chief executive appointing this dependable young man as state factory inspector, and so well and conscientiously did he fulfill the duties appertaining that he was re-appointed by Governor Warner. He resigned the afore-mentioned office upon his election to the office of county clerk of Calhoun county, his first election to the clerkship being in November, 1906, and his assumption of the office on January 1, 1907. He has had the most eloquent of comments made as to the opinion of the people in his services in his second re-election.

Mr. Hart has always been closely associated with his father in business, as father and son usually are, and he has assisted materially in the good fortunes of his father's concern. His previously mentioned stock farm is in Fulton county of the Hoosier state and upon its broad acres the subject raises the best kind of beef cattle, namely: Black Poll Angus and Durham cattle.

Mr. Hart is one of the state's most prominent members of the Knights of Pythias. He has passed all the chairs and has been twice elected to Grand Lodge. In 1911 he was elected Grand Outer Guard of the Grand Lodge, which is the stepping stone toward the highest honors in that body.

On August 25, 1896, Mr. Hart was happily married to Miss Bertha M. Miller, daughter of Charles Miller of Battle Creek, Michigan. Mrs. Hart was born in Three Rivers, Michigan and received her education in that place and in Battle Creek, her parents removing here in her girlhood. Into their attractive household has been born two children, as follows: Ruby Marie and Russell E. Their residence is situated at 108 Manchester street, this modern and substantial abode having been

Hosted by Google

built by Mr. Hart in the summer of 1896, he and his wife having removed to it three months after their marriage. The father, Russell A. Hart and his estimable wife, Buena Vista, make their home at 42 Lincoln street. The elder gentleman's residence here dates from 1883 and that of his family from 1884.

CHARLES D. HYATT. A prominent and successful business man of Tekonsha, Charles D. Haytt is widely known not only as an extensive dealer in real estate, but as a botanist, and as expert grower of mushrooms, for which he has large and ready sale. He was born, December 7, 1872, at Eaton Rapids, Michigan, a son of C. C. Hyatt.

His grandfather, Daniel Hyatt, was born in Ovid, New York, and while yet in his teens took an active part in the War of 1812. In 1835 he followed the emigrant's trail to Michigan, but at that time did not stay very long. Returning eastward, he spent several years in Ohio, being engaged in agricultural pursuits. About 1849 he came again to Michigan, bringing his family with him, and settling in Eaton county, where he carried on general farming until his death, in 1882.

Born in Clyde, Ohio, in 1847, C. C. Hyatt was but two years of age when his parents located in Eaton county, Michigan, where he grew to man's estate. During the Civil war, he enlisted in Company A, First Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and while fighting for his country received injuries from the effects of which he never recovered. He subsequently settled in Burlington, Michigan, and there built up a lucrative business as a stock buyer Going to Battle Creek for the benefit of his health, he died in the Sanitarium of that city, May 8, 1902. He was a sound Republican in politics, and belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife was likewise a member. He married Elizabeth Howland, who was born, in 1850, in Burlington, Michigan, of English ancestry. Her father, William Howland, was born in 1824, in Lisle, New York, but in early life came to Michigan and was here prosperously engaged in business until his death.

Having completed his early education in the district schools, Charles D. Hyatt began life for himself as a clerk, and later was for four years engaged in the hardware business on his own account. Embarking in the real estate trade in 1909, Mr. Hyatt has since been identified with the exchange of realty in all parts of the county, being one of the heaviest dealers in real estate in this part of the state. Always interested in botany, he has made a special study of mushrooms, and having attained success as a grower of the plants has built an extensive and lucrative trade in that edible fungus, which he proposes to cultivate on a much larger scale, having recently purchased four or five other tracts of land suitable for that purpose.

Politically Mr. Hyatt is a Democrat, and fraternally he belongs to Washington Lodge, No. 7, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons; to Lodge, No. 1023, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, of Coldwater; and both he and his wife are members of Tekonsha Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star.

On July 10, 1901, Mr. Hyatt was united in marriage with Daisy Eberhardt, a daughter of George Eberhardt, who came from Indiana, his native state, to Michigan in 1874, settling in Union City, his present home, where for thirty years he had charge of the local express office. Mr. and Mrs. Hyatt have two children, Margaret and Ella Louise, both of whom are now in school.

RALPH WEEKS, a prosperous farmer of Athens township, was born and reared in the community in which he now lives, and which has

Hosted by Google

represented the center of his activities from his earliest recollections up to the present time. A son of Darwin J. Weeks, he was born December 1, 1873, on the farm of his parents, of whom a more complete account appears elsewhere in this volume, in connection with the biographical sketch of Burr L. Weeks, a brother of the subject.

Educated in the district schools, Ralph Weeks commenced as a boy to do chores on the home farm, obtaining in his boyhood a practical experience in the art of tilling the soil, and early deciding to follow the vocation of his father. He began life for himself poor in pocket, but rich in energy and courage. In 1909 another forty acres were added to their home.

Mr. Weeks has shown himself a good citizen, displaying an interest in all affairs pertaining to the welfare of his township and county, and does his share towards the support of all beneficial enterprises. He is a member of the local Grange and has served his town as constable, being elected to the office on the Republican ticket.

In 1896 Mr. Weeks married Anna Doubleday, daughter of George C. Doubleday and his wife, Ella (Cole) Doubleday. Mr. Doubleday was a lineal descendant of the emigrant ancestor, Elisha Doubleday, who, with his two sons, Elisha and Elijah, settled in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1676, whence they came from Yorkshire, England. Mrs. Week's paternal grandfather, a son of Elisha and Mercy (Bement) Doubleday, was educated in Yates county, New York, where his parents settled soon after his birth which occurred in Westfield, Washington county, New York, February 20, 1802. In 1825 he married Betsey Wallace, a daughter of Samuel Wallace, of Steuben county, New York, where she was born in 1802. In 1832 he with his wife and children came to Branch county, Michigan, becoming pioneers of Sherwood township, and there they improved a tract of wild land, gradually evolving a pleasant home, where Mrs. Doubleday died in 1852 and Mr. Doubleday spent most of the remainder of his life with his daughter Harriet, but died with his oldest son Harvey W., in 1890. They were the parents of six children, none of whom are now living. They were: Harvey M.; Harriet, who married D. D. Riley; Myron; John M.; Frances and George C. George C. Doubleday was born on the Sherwood township farm of his parents, in 1840, and there grew to manhood. He spent some time in the western states, during the "gold craze." After his marriage he bought land in Branch county, and was there occupied in agricultural activities for many years, but later bought a farm in LeRoy township. On retiring from active life, he removed to Pine Creek, LeRoy township, where his death occurred, November 19, 1907. To him and his wife were born four children: William; Anna, now Mrs. Ralph Weeks; and Lee and Dee, twins, Dee dying in infancy. No children have come to Mr. and Mrs. Weeks.

WILLIAM S. HOAG, a prosperous and practical farmer and a representative citizen of Clarence township, is a New York man by nativity, born in Ontario county of the Old Empire State on January 1, 1870, but was reared from early childhood in Calhoun county, Michigan. His father was the late William W. Hoag, born in New York in 1834, who died in Clarence township on June 2, 1909. Charlotte Bennett Hoag, the mother of our subject, was born in New York in 1844 and was a daughter of William Bennett, a native and a life long resident of New York. William W. Hoag brought his family from New York to Michigan in 1874 and located in Calhoun county, where he bought a farm. This he sold shortly afterward and in 1884 bought another farm of forty acres in Clarence township, on which he resided until his death.

Hosted by Google

As an agriculturist he was successful and as a citizen he received the cordial respect of all who knew him. A member of the time-honored Masonic order, he affiliated with Springport Lodge No. 284 Free and Accepted Masons, and in political affairs he gave his allegiance to the Republican party. The union of William W. Hoag and Charlotte Bennett was blessed by the birth of three children, of whom William S. is the youngest. Daniel J. Hoag, the father of William W., removed from his native state of New York to Michigan in 1885 and died here.

Educated first in the district schools of Clarence township and later in the city schools of Eaton Rapids, William S. Hoag took up farming after his school days were over and has proved an excellent representative of this noble and honest occupation, for the labors of which he was well fitted by his practical qualities of character. He bought his first farm about 1894, a tract of twenty acres; in 1896 he bought ten acres more, and has so continued to add to his holdings until he now owns 170 acres. Untiring industry and good business acumen have been the means by which he has progressed steadily toward prosperity, for in a financial way Mr. Hoag is distinctly a self-made man. Besides giving his attention to his farming interests he also conducts the boat house and store at Ducklake, a popular pleasure resort of Calhoun county.

In 1891 Mr. Hoag was happily married to Miss Emma I. Straight. Daniel Straight, the father of Mrs. Hoag, came to Michigan from his native state of New York in an early day and became a well known and substantial farmer of Gratiot county, where he was the owner of a section of land and where he died. In political affairs he was an adherent of the Democratic party. Two sons, Gerald V. and Alonzo W., have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hoag and both are at the parental home. Mr. Hoag is a staunch and representative Republican and has held the office of justice of the peace and has served as a member of the Clarence township school board nine years and also as a member of the Calhoun county board of review. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Ancient Order of Gleaners and with the Mystic Workers of the World. Mr. Hoag has recently removed to Albion to educate his children and resides at 1012 South Eaton street.

ELSWORTH H. PUFFER is most sucessfully engaged in farming operations on his finely improved estate of eighty acres in Pennfield township, Calhoun county, Michigan. He is possessed of ambition and determination and his energy, courage and business judgment have brought him to a position of esteem and influence among the citizens of his home community, where he is a man of mark in all the relations of life. He has been a member of the township board of supervisors for the past eight years and is filling that position with the utmost efficiency at the present time, in 1912.

In Steuben county, New York, June 30, 1862, occurred the birth of Elsworth H. Puffer, who is a son of Tisdale and Mary J. (Gifford) Puffer, the former of whom was born in the state of Vermont and the latter in Massachusetts. Tisdale Puffer removed to New York as a young man and thence came to Michigan in 1865. He enlisted for service in the Civil war as a member of a New York company and was a soldier in the Union ranks from 1864 until the close of hostilities. After his advent in Michigan he settled on a farm in Bedford township, Calhoun county and subsequently he removed to Pennfield township, where his death occurred in 1874. He was a Republican in his political affiliations and was decidedly successful as a business man and farmer. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his

Hosted by Google

wife, who still survives him and who maintains her home at Battle Creek, is now a member. Tisdale Puffer was a son of Tisdale Puffer, Sr., who was likewise born and reared in Vermont and who came to Michigan and there resided until his death. The maternal grandfather of him to whom this sketch is dedicated was Levi Gifford, born in Massachusetts. He removed to Michigan in 1863 and here was engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death.

To the public schools of Calhoun county Elsworth H. Puffer is indebted for his educational training, the same including one year's attendance in the schools at Battle Creek. As a youth he helped clear his father's land and he is now the owner of that estate, the same comprising eighty acres. Mr. Puffer devotes his attention to general farming and he is a member of the board of directors of the Hail Storm Insurance Company. He is a Republican in politics and has held practically all the township offices. For eight terms he has been township supervisor and in all his public offices he has acquitted himself with honor and distinction, ever doing his duty most conscientiously.

On September 14, 1884, Mr. Puffer married Miss Georgiana Merrill, who was born in Michigan. She is a daughter of Horace Merrill, who is a resident of Batavia, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Puffer are the parents of thirteen children, as follows,—Mrs. Earles Kresge was graduated in the Battle Creek high school; Raymond is associated with his father in the work and management of the home farm; Francis was graduated in the Battle Creek schools; Eva is the wife of Ernest Foreman and they reside at Detroit; Richard was graduated in the business college at Battle Creek and is now engaged with the Michigan Central Railroad at Detroit; Harry is at home; Helen is attending high school at Battle Creek; and Georgia, Leona, Marion, Elsworth, Mildred and Jeanette, all are at home. The Puffer family are members of the Methodist Protestant church and Mr. Puffer is affiliated with the Knights of the Maccabees.

C. W. Post was born October 26, 1854, at Springfield, Illinois, at that time a little town with muddy streets, where Abraham Lincoln, citizen, was known among the boys as "Uncle Abe."

Mr. Post descended from Yankee stock—Puritans. His mother was a Lathrop from Connecticut, and his father, Charles R. Post, was born in Vermont and moved to the west when a boy about eight years old and located south of Springfield on a farm with his father. When the gold fever of 1849 spread, the elder Post went with a party of "Forty Niners" to the mining camps of California.

At the time the subject of this sketch was born, his father was a merchant at Springfield. The boy was in due time placed in the public schools and gained what education he could up until 1868, when he was placed in the University of Illinois at Champaign an dtook a military course, inasmuch as his youthful mind had become attracted by military affairs, he having been among the camps of the soldiers from 1861 to 1865. After about two years of hard training for a military life, he decided that was not what he wanted, therefore he left college and went back to Springfield to work for his father.

In 1871, during the Chicago fire, he served under General Phil Sheridan when Chicago was under martial law. Shortly after that he went to the frontier when buffalo herds roamed the plains and when Indians were frequent marauders along the outpost, and made his start in the hardware business at the age of seventeen. In this enterprise the young man made some money, but found it profitable to sell out his interests the succeeding year and return to what was then known as "the states."

Hosted by Google

Shortly thereafter he accepted a position to travel for an agricultural implement concern and after spending seven or eight years in a commercial way, covering a number of western states, he finally became manager at Kansas City for a large implement factory. Later on he returned to Springfield and with local capitalists started the Springfield Plow Works. This concern under his management built quite a large factory which, with later additions, is still in existence and successfully conducting a business under the name of The Satley Plow Works. Severing his connection with the plow company, he went to California with a corporation made up of railroad managers interested in exploiting and selling land. He made money at this, although during the operations at Springfield, he had broken down physically from overwork, and still remained more or less of an invalid. This condition continued for seven or eight years and finally drifted him to Battle Creek, Michigan, for treatment at a sanitarium. After about nine months he was given up to die and was taken out of the sanitarium, to be healed under an entirely different method of procedure.

Being then out of business he purchased an old home place in Battle Creek with about twenty-seven acres of orchards and lawns. Here for about four years Mr. Post conducted a small sanitarium, chartered under the laws of Michigan, further pursuing his studies in medicine, dietetics, hygiene, and particularly what might be termed "suggestive therapeutics." He attended some of the clinics in Paris for five or six successive years and made a very careful study of the organs of digestion and assimilation, and particularly of the effect of the mind upon the functioning of those organs.

While he was in practice at this small sanitarium his attention was attracted to the fact that nervous patients were very seriously handicapped if they used coffee. Therefore, he proceeded to devise a beverage that would give them a morning drink, warm and nourishing, but free from the drug effects of coffee. It took about a year to perfect this article, and when perfected it was furnished free to patients, and sold in ordinary brown paper bags to a few interested outsiders. Later on the demand grew, and in 1895 he started the manufacture of the product, calling it "Postum." This was the beginning of the pure food business which has now attained a position, the largest in the world in that particular line.

At the present time there are over ten acres covered with factory buildings making the pure foods, for which the Postum Cereal Company, Limited, has become famous. These foods, Postum, Grape-Nuts, Post Toasties and Post Tavern Special, go to every country in the world.

Some years ago, Mr. Post bought a ranch in Texas of 204,000 acres, situated in Garza and Lynn counties, about 250 miles west of Fort Worth. Later, when Garza county was organized one of the sections of Mr. Post's ranch was selected for the county seat and a little town started, named Post City. Thereupon he decided to build a good comfortable western town and proceeded to erect houses, some big stores, a hotel, cotton gin, planing mill, machine shop, garage, water works, and later on a cotton mill. Twenty-six miles of streets were laid out, all lined with trees. There are now something over sixty miles of trees in and about Post City, an improvement very unique for a western town.

Mr. Post served several years as President of the National Citizens' Industrial Association, and four years as President of the National Association of American Advertisers. He has an international reputa-

Hosted by Google

tion as an expert in labor questions and his articles on this subject are very widely read and quoted.

He helped to organize the National Trades and Workers' Association and presented it with a home for indigent and decrepit members. The association is a non-strike labor organization, having branches in many of the larger cities of the United States.

His industrial city, Postumville, adjoining the works at Battle Creek, is regarded, both in Europe and America, as perhaps the most practical example of home building for working people.

OWEN L. HUBBARD. Conspicuous among the foremost citizens of Marshall is Owen L. Hubbard, an extensive landholder, and a retired capitalist, now occupying a palatial residence at the corner of Kalamazoo and Brewer avenues, the estate being named "Pine Knot." The house is picturesquely situated on a rising knoll, and is surrounded by beautiful pines, oaks and elms, giving charm and variety to the scenery, and commands an extensive view of the surrounding country. The only son of the late Deville Hubbard, Owen L. Hubbard was born on a farm adjoining the city of Marshall, February 26, 1866. His grandparents, Cyrus and Clarissa Hubbard, came from New York state to Michigan in 1835, locating just north of Marshall, where they improved a farm of eighty acres, which now forms a part of the Deville Hubbard estate.

Deville Hubbard was born, February 7, 1829, in Sangerfield, Oneida county, New York, being one of a family of three children. He succeeded to the ownership of his father's farm, and through wise investment and superior management added to its area until he had title, at the time of his death, February 27, 1884, to two thousand acres of rich and fertile land. He married Alice Moore, who was of pioneer stock. A brief biographical sketch of Deville Hubbard appears elsewhere in this volume, and will be of interest to many of the readers of this work.

Until seventeen years of age Owen L. Hubbard attended the winter terms of the public schools of his district, in the meantime studying at home under the tuition of his mother, who was a woman of culture and education. He remained on the parental homestead until twenty-six years of age, superintending a large part of the work after the death of his father. Continuing then as an agriculturist on his own account, Mr. Hubbard formed a partnership with J. C. Beckwith, and as head of the firm of Hubbard & Beckwith built up an extensive business, buying and shipping hay, grain and wool, dealing for a number of years with prominent eastern firms. Having accumulated considerable wealth, Mr. Hubbard sold out to Mr. Beckwith, who is still conducting the business with characteristic success. Since selling out, Mr. Hubbard has devoted himself to his farms, which consists of three different tracts of land, aggregating one thousand acres, the greater part of it being leased to parties on shares. His farms contain some of the richest and most fertile land, of which Calhoun county can boast, being of a rich loam mixed with clay, a combination most desirable for the raising of crops of good quantity and quality. In addition to his large land holdings, Mr. Hubbard is a stockholder in the First National Bank of Marshall. He is a Democrat in politics, and with his family, attends the Episcopal church.

Mr. Hubbard married, in 1893, Miss Rose Kast, a daughter of John Kast, an old and much respected citizen of Marshall, and into their home three children have been born, namely: Irma L. and Alice M., attending school in Kenosha, Wisconsin; and Deville H., at home.

Hosted by Google

EDWARD F. WILLIS is an enterprising and prosperous agriculturist and dairyman in Bedford township, Calhoun county, Michigan, where he has resided during practically his entire life time thus far and where he is honored and esteemed by all with whom he has come in contact. His fine farm of 119 acres is located five and one-half miles distant from the city of Battle Creek and is one of the best improved estates in the entire county.

A native of Calhoun county, Michigan, Edward F. Willis was born on the 20th of December, 1867. He is a son of Isaac C. and Margaret (Traut) Willis, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania, the former in Chester county, September 13, 1827, and the latter in Lancaster county, July 27, 1827. Isaac C. Willis was a son of Henry Willis, who was born on the ocean while his parents were en route from England to America. He passed his childhood days in Pennsylvania and came to Michigan in 1837, taking charge of the building of the Michigan Central Railway at Kalamazoo. In 1843 Henry Willis started the first nursery in Calhoun county and subsequently he erected a pottery plant at Battle Creek. He was always interested in the various railroad enterprises and in the spring of 1885 he became acquainted with Sir Henry Tyler, in whose company he made a trip to England. He died December 20, 1886. Jacob Traut, maternal grandfather of the subject of this review, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. As a young man he removed to western Pennsylvania and later came to Michigan, locating on a farm in the vicinity of Assyria and eventually settling in Pennfield township, Calhoun county, where he resided during the remainder of his life time.

Isaac C. Willis was reared and educated in Pennsylvania and came to Michigan in 1864. He helped to bring the first locomotive ever run into Battle Creek. He also put up the first telegraph wire ever put into Detroit. In 1887 he purchased a farm in Pennfield township, this county, and so successful was he in his various financial ventures that he left a finely improved farm of four hundred and fifty acres at the time of his demise February 17, 1911. For a number of years he ran saw mills; he was independent in politics and he and his wife were members of the Quaker church. He married Margaret Traut in 1858 and to this union were born five children, all of whom are living, in 1912, namely,—Lydia, Maggie, Henry, Thomas and Edward F. Mrs. Willis survives her honored husband and makes her home with the subject of this sketch.

Edward F. Willis was reared to adult age on the old homestead farm and received his rudimentary educational training in the district schools of Calhoun county. In 1896 he went to British Columbia, where he remained six years, during which time he was engaged in the produce business. He was fairly successful in that line of enterprise and returned to Michigan in 1902, at which time he settled on the old homestead, where he has since maintained his home. He is engaged in general farming and in dairy work, having a large herd of fine cattle. He is a successful farmer and is the owner of a finely improved estate of 119 acres. While he has never had aught of ambition for the honors or emoluments of public office of any description he is a stalwart Republican in all matters affecting the welfare of the nation. In local matters he maintains an independent attitude, giving his support to men and measures meeting with the approval of his judgment.

November 9, 1904, Mr. Willis was united in marriage to Miss Florence Campbell, a daughter of William Campbell, a prominent farmer in Barry county, Michigan. William Campbell was a son of George Campbell, who served in the Civil war and who died of Yellow fever.

Hosted by Google

Mr. and Mrs. Willis have two children, namely,—Marie L., is attending school in Pennfield township; and Harold E., remains at home. Mr. and Mrs. Willis are factors in connection with the social affairs of their home community.

HON. DELOS FALL, M. A., Sc. D., educator, lecturer and author, and now superintendent of Public Instruction in Michigan, stands today as one of the most distinguished champions of the public-school system in America; and certain advance movements which he has inaugurated are regarded by many of the most progressive steps that have been taken along the line of public education in a quarter of a century. His professional connection, aside from his official service, is that of Professor of Chemistry in Albion College. As a writer and lecturer he has attained distinction in the literary and scientific world and he has been the promoter of legislation which has had a far reaching and beneficial effect upon the schools of Michigan.

His ancestry is one of long connection with America and her interests on both the paternal and maternal sides. His paternal great-grandfather came to America as a British soldier in the Revolutionary war, and after the close of hostilities, remained to make his home in the New World. His son, Daniel Fall, the grandfather of the subject, was born in Connecticut, March 1, 1780, and became a pioneer settler of Monroe county, New York. He married Hannah Treat, and in their frontier home Benjamin F. Fall, the father of Professor Fall, was born on March 12, 1810. He removed to Michigan, settling in Washtenaw county, near Ann Arbor, about 1836. Mr. Fall was a blacksmith and worked at his trade for many years. Later he took up his abode at Ann Arbor, where his death occurred in 1869, when he was fifty-nine years of age. He was leading member of the Methodist Episcopal church of his locality and took a prominent part in its work, filling its various official positions and co-operating in all the branches of the church work. His home in the early days was always open for the reception of the pioneer ministers. He was also prominently identified with the Masonic fraternity, its tenets concerning the brotherhood of man appealing to him most forcibly.

The mother of Professor Fall was born near Mendon, New York, January 12, 1813, a daughter of Henry and Dorothy (Sackett) Bassett. Her father was a son of Henry and Mary (Percy) Bassett, the latter a daughter of Sylvanus and Abagail (Durein) Percy, and a granddaughter of Lord Percy of England, who was a member of one of the most distinguished and forceful families, according to history, in England. Henry Bassett, grandfather of Professor Fall, bore a Christian name which was also borne by his father and grandfather. The family was established in New England during an early epoch in the colonization of the new world, and the first Henry Bassett, the grandfather, and Dorothy Sackett, were married in 1797, their daughter Ann M., becoming the wife of Benjamin F. Fall. Her death occurred in Albion, Michigan, in 1899, when she was in her eighty-seventh year of life. She had three children who reached mature years. The eldest son, Charles S. Fall, was a soldier of the Civil war and received from Congress a gold medal in recognition of bravery displayed in action at the battle of Spottsylvania Court House. He is now living in Los Angeles, California. Delos and DeWitt C. Fall are twins, and the latter is now a resident of Jackson, Michigan.

Professor Fall pursued his education in what is known as the "lower town" school at Ann Arbor, also attended a country school and subsequently continued his studies in the Ann Arbor high school. In 1870

Hosted by Google

he matriculated in the University of Michigan and after studying there for a year engaged in teaching for one year in the high school of Ann Arbor, thus continuing a work which he had begun in connection with the district schools of the locality. Returning to the University he was graduated with the class of 1875, at which time the degree of Bachelor of Science was conferred upon him.

Following his graduation Professor Fall went to Flint, Michigan, as principal of the high school there and remained thus engaged for three and a half years. He was then called to Albion College, in the fall of 1878, as Professor of Natural Sciences and filled that chair until 1888, when he was elected Professor of Chemistry in the same institution, and has since held that chair. The growth of this department under his guidance was so great that in 1893 the McMillan Chemical laboratory was built. It is one of the finest and most modern buildings for the purpose to be found in the state and is devoted entirely to chemical uses. It was erected by Senator James McMillan at a cost of forty thousand dollars, including the equipment. The laboratory has become well and favorably known throughout the country, and aside from analytical and compound work, is doing a large amount of work in Portland cement, marls, clays, peat, and also in the examination of flours and other food products. Here is carried on a large amount of water analysis, sanitary and quantitative. Professor Fall has thus not only become widely known as a leading educator, but also in analytical chemistry, in which he is regarded as an authority. He does a large amount of work in this line, not only in Michigan, but also in many other states throughout the Union. In recognition of his special work the degree of M. A. was conferred upon him in 1882 by the University and in 1898 he was honored by Albion College with the degree of Doctor of Science for twenty years of capable service. He is now the senior professor of the college.

Professor Fall's labors have been of the utmost practical benefit in the educational field. Education is the basis of industrial success. Without the hand disciplined to execute, and the mind trained to plan and direct, the industrial organization of the modern commonwealth could not exist. The state recognizes this, not only in its watchful care and endowment of its public schools but in the higher institutions of learning that have been established for both mental and manual culture. It is this consideration that has always entitled the founder of a great school or a disinguished educator to special honor, and in this connection Professor Fall well merits the position of prominence which he holds in the public regard and the honors which have been conferred upon him in the state and country. He has been very active and prominent in association work and was at one time president of the State Teachers' Association. For many years he has been a member of the National Educational Association, of which he is now vice-president In 1886 he was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the most important organization for the benefit of science in America. He is well known as a writer, has been a frequent contributor to educational journals and is the author of "Qualitative Chemical Analysis," which has been well received.

For twelve years Professor Fall was a member of the Michigan State Board of Health with which he was prominently identified as an active worker. He was largely instrumental in placing on the statute books the law relative to the teaching of methods concerning the spread and prevention of contagious disease in the public schools. It was also dur-

Hosted by Google

ing this period that he was a member and active worker of the American Public Health Association and the National Conference of the Boards of Health. About the same time he wrote and lectured to a considerable extent on sanitary science, and some of his writings have been copied into the sanitary journals of the old world. His labors in this direction have been effective in promoting health conditions in Michigan.

Along other lines Professor Fall has put forth earnest effort for community interests and the welfare of his city. He has been a member of the common councils of Albion and was a member of the Board of Health of Albion for twelve years. He has ever stood for improvement in educational lines and during his connection with the school board marked advance was made as the result of his efforts. In 1899 he was nominated State Superintendent of Public Instruction for Michigan,—an election that was extremely complimentary, for he received the greatest number of votes ever given a candidate for that office in Michigan, his majority being almost one hundred thousand. He entered upon the duties of the office on the first day of the twentieth century and was reelected in 1901, also by a very large majority. During his incumbency marked advancement has been made in connection with the work of the office, especially along the line of rural schools. The laws were perfected whereby the centralizing and consolidation of rural schools was made possible, thereby increasing their efficiency. At the suggestion of Professor Fall there was also a law passed by the Michigan Legislature for the establishment in each county of a County Normal Training Class, in which the teachers of rural districts are given professionals instructions, and as a result of this they return to their schools prepared to do more effective, practical and valuable work than before. This is considered by many to be one of the most far-reaching and beneficial results brought about during the last quarter century for the improvement of the rural schools. A large part of the duties of the State Superintendent are in connection with the state board of education, of which he is an ex-officio member and secretary. During his administration as superintendent of public instruction there have been notable additions made to the buildings and equipments of the three normal schools of Michigan, and the fourth school of this character has been established, known as the Western State Normal School, located at Kalamazoo. Judged by what he has accomplished in the line of educational advancement, Professor Fall well merits the honored position which he occupies in the public regard.

At Flint, Michigan, July 24, 1877, Professor Fall married Miss Ida Andrews, and five children have been born to them: Frank Andrews, Allen Percy, Mark, Florence and Donald Mac. Professor Fall is a member of Murat lodge, F. & A. M., and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He has served on its board of trustees, has been superintendent of the Sunday-school at different times and has taken a very active and helpful part in the work of the church. He was a lay delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, held at Los Angeles, California, in 1904. Professor Fall has ever borne himself with a dignity and honor which has gained to him the respect and esteem of all. His life work forms an important chapter in the history of educational progress in the state and he has wielded a wide influence along other lines of advancement, particularly of moral growth and legislative accomplishment. His strong mentality, invincible courage and determined individuality have rendered him a natural leader of men and a director of public opinion.

Hosted by Google

JOHN H. VAN ARMAN. Among the sterling citizens of Calhoun county who went forth in defense of the nation's integrity at the time of the Civil war is he to whom this sketch is dedicated. Mr. Van Arman has been a resident of Calhoun county since his childhood days, is a representative of one of the honored pioneer families of this favored section of the Wolverine state, and after long years of close and successful devotion to the great basic industry of agriculture he is now living virtually retired, in an attractive home in the city of Marshall, the judicial center of the county. He is held in high esteem in the community and this fact shows that he has fully measured up to the effective guage of popular confidence and approbation.

Mr. Van Arman was born at Canada, on the 25th of July, 1838, and is a son of Luke and Sarah (Chisholm) Van Arman, the former of whom was born at Quebec, Canada, and the latter near Edinburg, Scotland. In 1844, when the subject of this review was a lad of about six years, the family came to Calhoun county, Michigan, and the father secured a tract of sixty acres of land in Lee township. Later he purchased additional land in the same township, and he finally became the owner of a valuable estate of two hundred acres. He reclaimed much of his land from the virgin forest, was a man of energy and indefatigable, and with the passing of the years he achieved definite prosperity. Both he and his wife continued to reside on the old homestead until their death, and the names of both merit enduring place on the roster of the honored pioneers of the county. They were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics Luke Van Arman gave his allegiance to the Democratic party.

John H. Van Arman was reared to manhood under the sturdy and invigorating discipline of the pioneer farm, and thus early gained fellowship with strenuous toil and endeavor, the while he availed himself of the advantages of the common schools of the locality and period. Mr. Van Arman continued to be associated in the work and management of the home farm until he had attained to his legal majority, and he then entered the employ of the firm of Buck & Hoyt, who were engaged in manufacture of grain cradles in the city of Battle Creek.

When the dark cloud of civil war cast its pall over the national horizon Mr. Van Arman, who was then a young man of twenty-three years, was among the first to tender his services in defense of the Union. In 1861, in response to President Lincoln's first call for volunteers, he enlisted as a private in Company E., Sixth Michigan Volunteer Infantry. Shortly after this he was taken with typhoid fever and was ill almost a year. In 1865 he enlisted in Company H, Ninth Michigan Infantry, being mustered in March 15th. He joined the regiment May 23, 1865, but took part in no battles, doing guard duty at the State House, Nashville, for General Thomas. Mr. Van Arman has ever retained a deep interest in his old comrades in arms and signified the same by his membership in C. Colegrove Post, No. 166, Grand Army of the Republic, in the city of Marshall.

After the close of the war Mr. Van Arman turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, and he became the owner of a valuable farm property in Marengo township. His estate comprised 71 acres and upon the same he made the best of improvements, the while he was energetic and ambitious in carrying forward his various operations as an agriculturist and stock-grower, with the result that he eventually became one of the substantial and representative farmers of the county. In 1898 he removed from his farm to the city of Marshall, where he is living in the serene enjoyment of the rewards of former years of earnest toil and endeavor. He has been liberal and public-spirited in his civic attitude and has contributed in generous measure to the development

Hosted by Google

and upbuilding of the county that has been his home for many years and in which his circle of friends is limited only by that of his acquaintances. Mr. Van Arman accords allegiance to the Democrat party and has been a staunch supporter of its cause, though he has had no desire for public office. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

On the 2d of May, 1866, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Van Arman to Miss Laura A. Tabor, who was born at Erie county, New York, on the 15th of April, 1845, and who has proved a devoted companion and helpmeet. They have two children,—Frederick Bismark, who remains on the old homestead farm, and Earl Chisholm, who is in Fredonia township, Calhoun county, and resides upon a farm of his own.

WILLIAM MORGAN. Education and financial assistance are very important factors in achieving success in the business world of today, where every faculty must be brought into play, but they are not the main elements. Persistency and determination figure much more prominently and a man possessed of these qualities is bound to win a fair amount of success. William Morgan, whose name forms the caption for this review, is strictly a self-made man and he has climbed to a high place on the ladder of achievement. He is a prominent and influential citizen of Bedford township, Calhoun county, Michigan, where he has resided thirty-eight years, and where he is the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and seventy acres, all of which is well improved.

A native of England, William Morgan was born November 5, 1826, and he is a son of William and Mary (Crook) Morgan, both of whom were born in County Kent, England, whence they immigrated to the United States in 1829, locating in New York. The father entered a tract of government land in Chautauqua county, New York, and there literally hewed himself a farm out of the virgin wilderness. Subsequently he disposed of his farm and removed to Pennsylvania, where he engaged in farming and where he achieved a fair success. His father was likewise named William Morgan and he came to the United States from England, residing in New York until his death. The maternal grandfather Crook of the subject of this sketch was leader in the English navy band.

To the public schools of Chautauqua county, New York, William Morgan III, of this notice, is indebted for his somewhat limited educational training. At the age of twenty-one years he went to Erie, Pennsylvania, where he was in the milk business for the ensuing twenty-one years, at the expiration of which he came to Michigan, settling in Bedford township, Calhoun county. Here Mr. Morgan purchased a fine farm with his savings and with the passage of years he has gradually added to his original estate until he is the owner of a farm of three hundred and seventy acres, in 1912. He is engaged in diversified agriculture and in addition thereto devotes considerable attention to dairy work, having a herd of thirty-four cows. He likewise raises stock and cattle and has a beautiful country home. Inasmuch as his splendid success in life is entirely the outcome of his own well directed endeavors, Mr. Morgan's achievements are the more gratifying to contemplate. In his political convictions he is an uncompromising supporter of the principles and policies for which the Republican party stands sponsor and in a fraternal way he is an honorary member of the Knights of Pythias.

In 1862 Mr. Morgan was united in marriage to Miss Eleanor Gordon, a daughter of James Gordon, a native of New York. Mrs. Morgan was called to the life eternal in 1897. She was a woman of most gracious

Hosted by Google

personality and was beloved by all who came within the sphere of her influence. Mr. and Mrs. Morgan became the parents of two children,—Jessie, who married George H. York, a traveling man and they have one child, Mrs. Helen York and Benjamin G., who married Jennie Moore of Battle Creek and resides on the farm with his father, and they have three sons, William E., Ross H. and Paul M.

JOHN T. SMITH, who is most successfully engaged in the great basic industry of agriculture in Pennfield township, Calhoun county, Michigan, is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres located four and one-half miles distant from Bellevue. In addition to general farming he is a horticulturist and devotes considerable attention to the raising of bees, having as many as from one hundred to one hundred and twenty swarms all the time. His farm is in a fine state of cultivation and is improved with beautiful, substantial buildings.

A native of the fine old Buckeye state of the Union, John T. Smith was born in Huron county, Ohio, December 24, 1852. He is a son of Joseph and Sarah (James) Smith, both of whom were born in England, the former in 1819 and the latter in 1822. Mr. and Mrs. Smith were reared and educated in England and there their marriage was solemnized November 14, 1844. In the following year they immigrated to the United States, settling first in Huron county, Ohio, where they remained until 1855, and then coming to Calhoun county, Michigan. In 1858 Mr. Smith entered a tract of government land and literally hewed himself a farm out of the wilderness. He devoted the major portion of his active career to farming and was summoned to the life eternal, August 2, 1889. His wife also has passed away. They were the parents of four children, all of whom grew to adult years and two of whom are living, in 1912, namely: Edward J., who is a resident of Battle Creek, and John T., the immediate subject of this review. Both the maternal and paternal ancestors of the subject of this review were natives of England and none of them ever came to America.

John T. Smith was a child of but three years of age at the time of his parents' removal to Michigan and he was educated in the district schools of Pennfield township, Calhoun county. He worked on the home farm as a youth and eventually purchased that estate from his father. He now owns one hundred and twenty acres of most arable land, on which he is engaged in diversified agriculture and the raising of peaches and bees. He keeps from one hundred to one hundred and twenty swarms of bees on hand all the time and has marketed as much as two tons of honey in one season. He is a prosperous and progressive citizen and is one of the most prominent and influential farmers in this county. In politics he is a Lincoln Republican and he served for six years as justice of the peace of Pennfield township. Mr. Smith is a valued and appreciative member of Bellevue Grange and though not formally connected with any religious organization he attends and gives his support to the Methodist Episcopal church at Battle Creek, of which his wife is a member. He is an interested collector of ancient curios and Indian antiques and old coin, and has a very large and valuable collection.

Mr. Smith has been twice married. In 1876 he wed Miss Clara O. Burleigh, a daughter of Orren W. Burleigh, who was a farmer and an early settler in Calhoun county. She died December 18, 1909, and is survived by two children,—Ermina E. is the wife of R. E. Murray, who is a traveling salesman for a Hardware concern at Danville, Illinois; and Huber J. is engaged in farming on his father's farm. May 16, 1911, Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Mrs. Cordelia M. Archer, widow

Hosted by Google

of the late W. J. Archer and daughter of Cassius Gibbs, who was a Civil war soldier and who died of disease at Nashville, Tennessee, January 11, 1865; he was buried in the National cemetery at Nashville. W. J. Archer was a railroad man and was killed in a wreck at Battle Creek in 1907. Mrs. Smith is the mother of four children by her first marriage, Pearl, who was graduated in the medical department of the University of Michigan, and who is the wife of Frederick B. Kershner, president of the Christian University at Fort Worth, Texas. Mr. Kershner is a writer of note. He was born in Maryland; was graduated in Princeton University and for years was a missionary in the Philippine Islands. The children of Mrs. Archer were Pearl Maude, Claude and George T., both raiload men, George being a conductor on Grank Trunk.

DEVILLE HUBBARD. Beginning life for himself not on the plane of affluence, but in humble circumstances, Deville Hubbard, late of Marshall, Michigan, attained noteworthy success in agricultural and industrial circles, and to say that he was a "self-made man" expresses an evident truth in commonplace language. He was born, February 7, 1829, in Sangerfield, Onedia county, New York, coming on both sides of the house of substantial ancestry, his relatives having been able and influential citizens.

His father, Cyrus Hubbard, came from New York state to Michigan in 1835, bringing with him his wife and children. Purchasing eighty acres of land lying north of Marshall, he cleared a farm, which later became a part of the large estate of his son Deville. Clearing an opening in the primeval woods, he erected the typical log house of the pioneer, and for many years thereafter was active in advancing the settlement of his adopted township. To Cyrus and Clarissa Hubbard, three children were born, namely: Lawrence, Deville, and Caroline.

But six years old when he came with his parents to Calhoun county, Deville Hubbard grew to manhood among pioneer scenes, obtaining his education in the old log schoolhouse in Marshall, which was then a mere hamlet, he and his brother Lawrence bravely trudging back and forth each day through the long strip of almost pathless woods, taking their dinner with them. The wild beasts of the forests had not then fled before the advancing steps of civilization, and the howling of the wolves along their path often filled their hearts with fear.

Deville Hubbard was a lad of much determination and resolution, and through persistency seemingly found a way to conquer all difficulties. When he was yet young his mother, who was tired, worn out physically, and homesick, was anxious to visit her early home, there seemed to be no possible way by which she could procure money enough to pay her expenses on the journey. Deville, who was energetic, enterprising, and full of resources, determined at once that her desire should be gratified. Going forth with his traps, he set many in the surrounding woods, and two weeks later he had the gratification of presenting his mother with one hundred dollars which he had received from a Marshall man, who dealt in pelts.

After leaving school Deville Hubbard worked on the farm for three years. Then, on attaining his majority, he, with two companions, James Culver of Barry county, and Stanley Meacham, of Battle Creek, made an overland trip to the Pacific coast, Mr. Hubbard driving the four-horse team. Spending a few days in Salt Lake City, Mr. Hubbard worked for Brigham Young as a hand in the harvest fields, receiving six dollars a day, a small sum compared with the sixteen dollars a day in gold which was later paid harvest hands in that vicinity. Arriving at Yuba river, Mr. Hubbard met with much success in his mining opera-

Hosted by Google

tions, at the end of twenty months spent in the California gold regions returning to Michigan, and buying, from Dr. Sibley, two hundred and forty acres of land adjoining his father's farm. Cutting down and clearing off the timber, he upturned the sod, and later embarked in general farming, making a specialty of sheep raising, his favorite breed having been the Shropshires, of which he usually had large flocks.

In 1861 Mr. Hubbard was instrumental in raising the First Michigan Volunteer Infantry, furnishing the money therefor, and going to the front as captain of Company I, and taking an active part in many engagements, including the Battle of Bull Run. Public-spirited and generous, Mr. Hubbard was ever one of the foremost in the establishment of beneficial enterprises, and was one of the leaders in securing money and means for building railways. He was one of the stockholders in manufacturing interests, and was identified with nearly every project designed to promote the welfare of city or county. His death, which occurred at his home, February 27, 1884, was a loss to the community, and a cause of general regret.

Mr. Hubbard married, in 1862, Miss Alice Moore, who was born in Syracuse, New York, January 11, 1845, and was educated in the Packard Institute, at Brooklyn, New York. When nineteen years of age she came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Moore, to Marshall, Michigan, and here spent her remaining days, passing away June 20, 1905. Five children were born of their union, among whom, of those now living, are Owen L. Hubbard, of whom a brief sketch may be found on another page of this volume; and Mrs. Beatrice Babbitt.

Mrs. Babbitt was born on the Hubbard homestead, in Marshall, and after her graduation from the Marshall high school attended the Chicago Musical College, there developing her musical talent, and becoming a most skillful pianist. She resides in the fine residence erected by her father several years before his death, it being one of the most attractive and beautiful homes in the county. She is an extensive land owner, having a thousand acres of highly improved and productive land adjoining Marshall. Mrs. Babbitt has one son, Allison Babbitt, of Marshall.

CHARLES F. RADFORD, prominent among the more successful agricultural men of Le Roy township, has been a resident of the state since his boyhood, although he was born in Lysander, New York, on January 11, 1847. He is the son of James and Lydia (Zimmerman) Radford, natives of Albany, New York, the father born there in 1812 and she in 1809. In 1855 James Radford came to Michigan, bringing his family with him. He bought a farm in Le Roy township in 1858, buying the place on credit, and depending entirely upon himself and his energy to pay for the place and make of it a tillable piece of land. In the course of a few years he had reduced the land to a fine state of cultivation, had paid for it, and was on the highroad to financial independence,—an independence which none know so well nor can so well appreciate as the man with a productive farm. In 1868 Mr. Radford died, his wife surviving him until 1883. The maternal grandfather of Charles F. Radford of this sketch was Conrad Zimmerman, a native of New York state, where he passed his life. He was a veteran of the war of 1812. Mrs. Radford was one of a family of fourteen children.

Charles F. Radford was educated in the grade schools, but his training in that respect was not of a generous character, the farm claiming much of his attention as a boy and youth. In 1870 he became the owner of the old homestead, and he has lived on the place continuously since that time. He has carried on the good work conducted so profit-

Hosted by Google

ably during his father's lifetime, and has brought about many improvements in the matter of buildings and other necessary equipment. He is engaged in diversified farming and stock raising, and is generally conceded to be one of the most successful men in his business in the township, or indeed, in the county.

In 1869 Mr. Radford was united in marriage with Martha Scott, a daughter of Andrew Scott, born in Germany. Mr. Scott came to America as a young man and lived a great many years in New York. He later in life came to Michigan, where he became absorbed in farm life, and here he passed his latter days. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Radford. Elbert J., the eldest, is a farmer, as is also Frank E. Edith married William Doubleday, and Fred is located in Lansing, where he is in the employ of the Reo Automobile Company.

The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Radford is a member of the Grange, to which he gives a deal of his time and attention in the interests of the lodge. He is a Democrat, but is not politically ambitious, although he is a citizen of the best type, conscientious in his every duty of citizenship, and a valuable member of society in his community

HON. ABRAHAM T. METCALF, D. D. S., was born February 26, 1831, in Whitestown, New York, and is a representative of a family that has been conspicuous in New England history from an early period in the seventeenth century. His ancestors were English dissenters who sought a home and religious liberty in the New World. The early education of Dr. Metcalf was acquired in an academy in his native town, after which he entered upon an apprenticeship as a worker in sheet metal. He came with his father's family to Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1848, but remained only a few months and then returned to New York in order that he might take up the study of dentistry in Utica. After his preparation for the profession he began practice, in which he was very successful, and continued in the east until 1854, when he visited his father in Battle Creek. At the solicitation of Governor Ransom, who desired his professional council, he went to Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he took up his abode in 1855. His patronage almost immediately reached extensive as well as profitable proportions, but close application to business and the hardships of the climate proved detrimental to his health, and he was obliged to seek rest and recuperation. In 1857 he went south to New Orleans, where he rapidly recovered, and then formed a partnership with Dr. A. P. Dostie, a dentist of that city. After Gen. Butler entered that city, Dr. Dostie was made collector of the port, and he was afterwards made a member of the Constitutional Convention, for his acts in which body he was shot down and killed on the streets of New Orleans. Dr. Metcalf spent the summer months in Kalamazoo, but the winter seasons were passed in the south, where he continued until the outbreak of the Civil war.

Dr. Metcalf was a close and earnest student of the great problems which aroused the interest of the country prior to the war, and his sympathy was with the Union cause, not hesitating to express his ideas as to the questions at stake. In the spring of 1861, soon after Louisiana had passed the ordinance of secession, the Doctor was imprisoned for treason against the state, the first arrest made upon this charge in New Orleans. The affidavit solemnly stated that the good doctor had "uttered seditious language against the government, saying that, if he were in Lincoln's place, before a single state should be allowed to go out of the Union, he would burn the city of Charleston to the ground and drown the city of New Orleans with the water of the Mississippi river; and

Hosted by Google

other incendiary language.'' He was released from prison on the authority of the attorney general of the state.

In his professional career Dr. Metcalf attained distinguished honor and success. He was instrumental in organizing the Michigan State Dental Association in 1855, and was the first secretary of that body and several times president and later the historian. He secured from the Legislature the first appropriation for the dental department of the University of Michigan, a college that now stands second to no other dental college in the world. He was also mainly instrumental in securing the passage of the law creating a State Board of Examiners in dentistry and was the first president of the board and a member thereof for several years. He invented the dental engine and the first device of this kind ever made he placed on the market. He also invented the dentists' annealing lamp, which was invaluable to the profession previous to the introduction of adhesive gold foil. He was also the first to introduce the preparation for filling teeth known as sponge gold, and with his brother invented the tinman's pattern sheet which is an indispensable guide to workers in sheet metal. In 1872 the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery was conferred upon him by the New Orleans Dental College, and thus in the city in which he had once suffered imprisonment because of his loyalty to honest convictions, he was later honored by a leading collegiate institution. At the time of his removal to Battle Creek, in 1890, he retired from active practice and has since given his attention to real estate interests and to the management of several valuable estates. He has done considerable building here and contributed largely to the development and improvement of Battle Creek.

On June 25, 1857, Dr. Metcalf was married to Miss Helen E. Noble, daughter of Hon. Alonzo Noble, one of the prominent pioneer settlers of this city. She was born in Milton township, Vermont, March 27, 1834, and was brought by her parents to Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1836, and here she acquired her early education, which was supplemented by a course of study in the Ladies' Seminary, of Rochester, New York. Following her father's death, she and her husband came to Battle Creek to care for her mother. They had but one child, Alonzo T. Metcalf, who was a very bright boy, but died suddenly of rheumatic fever when but fourteen years of age. Mrs. Metcalf, because of her culture, refinement and kindly spirit, became a leader in social and church circle of Battle Creek. She was very prominent in the society of St. Thomas' Episcopal church, and her life was largely filled with generous deeds, it being noticeable that she rarely, if ever, spoke ill of others, always putting a most charitable construction on the motives of those with whom she was associated. She died in Los Angeles, California, February 26, 1898, and her remains were brought to Battle Creek for burial. As a tribute to her worth and beautiful womanly character, the various municipal offices of the city were closed on the day of her funeral from two to five o'clock.

Dr. Metcalf is a member of St. Thomas Episcopal church, although for years he was a vestryman of St. John's church, of Kalamazoo, and after his removal to this city continued as vestryman here, and is now the only warden of St. Thomas' church, the senior warden having been removed by death.

In Masonic circles, Dr. Metcalf is recognized as a leader throughout Michigan, and is the highest Mason in the United States at this time and has been since the death of Gen. Samuel C. Lawrence, of Boston, Massachusetts, who died during 1911. Dr. Metcalf, who is now supreme councilman for the Northern Jurisdiction, was made a Master Mason, November 26, 1856, in Kalamazoo Lodge No. 22, F. & A. M., and quickly

Hosted by Google

advanced in the organization until in 1861 he was made worshipful master. He was re-elected in 1862, in 1863 and again in 1869, and in 1887 was demitted with others from Kalamazoo Lodge for the purpose of reviving Anchor Lodge of Strict Observance No. 87, and in February, 1888, was made the first worshipful master under the restored charter. Soon after his removal to Battle Creek, a new lodge was formed and named in his honor, A. T. Metcalf Lodge No. 419, of which lodge he became the first worshipful master. He was chosen junior grand warden of the Grand Lodge of Michigan, in January, 1862, and re-elected in 1863, and was elected right worthy senior grand warden in 1864-5. He was elected deputy grand master in 1865, 1867 and 1868, and became grand master of the state in 1869 and re-elected in 1870. He succeeded to this office at a critical period in the history of the Michigan Grand Lodge. The many strong and determined acts which he performed during his first year to correct the loose habits into which some of the lodges of the state had fallen, aroused marked antagonism on the one hand and remarkable appreciation on the other, and his position and attitude were sustained by the Grand Lodge in the face of all efforts to the contrary. In Capitular Masonry, he held several offices, having been elected high priest of Kalamazoo Chapter in 1861 and again in 1868. His identification with Chivalric Masonry began in 1860, when he was made a Knight Templar in Peninsular Commandery No. 8, Kalamazoo. He served as eminent commander in 1868, 1869 and 1882, and in 1892 was admitted to Battle Creek Commandery No. 32, K. T., and was elected commander of the latter about the same year. He is an officer of Zabud Council, R. & S. M., of Battle Creek, and has been an active representative of the Scottish Rite for many years. In 1866 he was elected commander in chief of DeWitt Clinton Consistory, and was re-elected each succeeding year up to and including 1870. He is now an active member of Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States, and for six years was district deputy for Michigan. He has attained an honor accorded few representatives of the craft, that of being a thirty-third degree Mason.

In politics Dr. Metcalf has held prominent position. As a member of the Democratic party, he was elected to the board of trustees in Kalamazoo, and was chosen president of that village by popular suffrage in 1879. He represented the second district of Kalamazoo county in the State Legislature in 1875-6. After his removal to Battle Creek, he was elected mayor of the city in 1897, and many of his friends in both parties consider him one of the best mayors the city ever had, his efforts being among progressive and practical lines which would prove of the greatest good to the greatest number. A clean and well-spent life has left him sound in body and mind at the age of eighty-one years, and much of his good health he attributes to out-of-door exercise, even the coldest days of winter finding him taking his long walks. His is a familiar figure on the streets of Battle Creek, where he is accorded the respect and esteem due those whose activities have served to advance their community's interests, and he is universally regarded as one of Battle Creek's foremost citizens.

ALONZO NOBLE. The late Alonzo Noble was so closely associated with the development and business interests of Battle Creek that his life history forms an integral chapter in its annals, which if omitted would leave an incomplete record of the city. He established the second store in what was then the little hamlet, and from that time identified himself with the various changes and enterprises that caused its growth into a

Hosted by Google

great commercial and industrial center. Mr. Noble was born in Richmond, Chittenden county, Vermont, June 3, 1809, and was a son of Enoch Noble whose birth occurred in Westfield, Massachusetts, two years prior to the beginning of the Revolutionary war, and three years before the writing of the Declaration of Independence. Enoch Noble was reared to manhood in Westfield and was married there to Matilda Smith, who was born in the old Bay state, July 17, 1771. Soon after his marriage, Enoch Noble removed to Richmond, Vermont, where he followed the blacksmith's trade, and it was in that town that Alonzo Noble was reared to manhood.

Alonzo Noble received a good practical education and as a boy entered a store in the capacity of a clerk, in which business he was promoted from time to time. When he had sufficient capital, which he had saved by industry and economy, he engaged in business for himself at Milton, Vermont, and remained there until 1836, when he disposed of his store and started for the great and growing west. Making his way to Michigan, he settled in Battle Creek and established a store at the corner of Jefferson avenue and Main street, bringing to this hamlet its second stock of dry goods, a Mr. Coleman having opened a store a few months before. Mr. Noble erected a small building, in which was placed the first brick chimney in Battle Creek. This was a two-story structure and the second floor was used by Mr. Noble and his wife as a residence. They occupied it for twelve years, after which time, Mr. Noble having been successful in his business ventures, he erected one of the most modern and beautiful residences in the city. In 1850 the frame building in which he had commenced business was replaced by a substantial three-story brick block, which is still standing and known as the Noble Block. He occupied this with a large and well-selected line of dry goods, and for many years had the leading mercantile establishment of Battle Creek, and in all his dealings displayed integrity and probity. The passing years brought him a competence that enabled him at a later date to put aside all business cares and to live a retired life.

Mr. Noble was married before leaving the east to Miss Rhoda Murray, October 1, 1833, the wedding ceremony being performed at Williston, Vermont, by the Rev. William Arthur, whose son was the late President Arthur. Mrs. Noble was born June 11, 1812, and was a daughter of Calvin and Rhoda (Allen) Murray. Her father was a farmer and died in early manhood in the Green Mountain state. Unto this union was born a daughter: Helen E., who became the wife of Dr. A. T. Metcalf, whose life is reviewed in another part of this volume.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Noble had a wide circle of friends in Calhoun county, and in public affairs he was prominent and influential. During President Buchanan's administration, he served as postmaster of the city, having the office in his store. He was also one of the early mayors of Battle Creek, being elected to that office on the Democratic ticket, being a stanch adherent of that party. The same honorable dealing that characterized his business life was brought into his administration of public affairs, he regarding his office as a sacred trust. In fraternal matters he belonged to Battle Creek Lodge No. 12, F. & A. M., Chapter No. 19, R. A. M., and Battle Creek Commandery No. 33, K. T., and was most active in the work of the craft and charter member of the lodge and chapter. In his religious views he was a Universalist, his wife also being a member of that church, but after his death she became identified with St. Thomas' Episcopal church. Mr. Noble died in Battle Creek, March 27, 1874, after a residence in the city that had covered almost four decades. In his death Battle Creek lost a man who was representative of its highest type of citizenship, and he was mourned not

Hosted by Google

only by his immediate family and friends, but by those with whom he had come in contact and who had learned to appreciate his many admirable qualities of heart and mind.

JOHN H. CALLAHAN. It has been given Mr. Callahan to gain prestige as one of the most successful and popular hotel men of his native state, and he is at the present time owner of the Albion and Commercial hotel properties in the city of Albion, and also the Clifton hotels in Battle Creek. He gives his personal supervision to the two Clifton hotels in the latter city and rents those in Albion. Exceptional achievement is implied when a man is thus the owner of three hotels in a single county and all of these of high class. Mr. Callahan has shown special adaptability to this important line of enterprise, is most scrupulous in maintaining service at high standard, and his genial, whole-souled nature has won to him the high regard of the traveling public and the esteem of the citizens of the two cities in which his interests are centered.

John H. Callahan is a native of Michigan and a scion of pioneer families of this state. He was born on the old homestead farm of his father, in Parma township, Jackson county, on the 7th of October, 1863, and is a son of Michael and Adesia (Carpenter) Callahan, the former of whom was born in County Cork, Ireland, and the latter of whom was born in the state of New York, of English lineage, her parents, Jas. Carpenter and wife, having removed to Michigan when she was a child and having numbered themselves among the pioneers of Ingham county, where her father became a representative farmer and where she was reared to maturity, her marriage having been there solemnized. Michael Callahan was a lad of twelve years when he came with his parents to America, and his father secured a tract of land in Parma township, Jackson county, Michigan, where he reclaimed a productive farm from the forest wilds. Michael Callahan was reared to manhood in that county and there continued to be successfully identified with agricultural pursuits during his entire active career,—a man of sterling character, marked industry and unequivocal civic loyalty. He died in 1905, in the Nichols Hospital in Battle Creek, whither he had come for medical treatment, and he was sixty-eight years of age at the time of his demise. Mrs. Adesia (Carpenter) Callahan died on the old homestead in 1864, when her son John H., of this review, was but three years of age, and the father subsequently contracted a second marriage. John H. is the eldest of the three surviving children; Jennie is the wife of Dr. Wm. H. Atterbury, of Litchfield, Hillsdale county; and Josephine is the widow of Chas. Sykes, of Albion.

John H. Callahan was reared to the sturdy discipline of the home farm and after availing himself of the advantages of the public schools of the township of Parma he completed a commercial course in Albion College. Thereafter he was associated in the work and management of the home farm until he had attained to the age of twenty-five years. Thereafter he was engaged in the agricultural-implement business at Albion. May 1, 1891, he became proprietor of the Commercial hotel in the city of Albion. He purchased this excellent property and after personally conducting the hotel for seven years, at the expiration of which he went to Colorado, where he remained about four years, during the greater part of which he was identified with mining enterprises in the Cripple Creek district. He was successful in this line and upon his return to Albion he resumed control of the Commercial hotel and also purchased the Albion House, long the leading hotel of that city. He continued to give his personal supervision to his hotel interests in

Hosted by Google

Albion until 1902, when he rented both properties. In March of that year he purchased the Bismarck hotel in Battle Creek, this being a modern house conducted on the European plan, and in January, 1911, he amplified his enterprises in this city by the purchase of the Clifton hotel, a house of sixty-eight rooms and one that has long been the most popular American-plan hotel in the city. He has brought both of these houses up to a high standard in all lines and both receive large and appreciative patronage under his effective supervision. Mr. Callahan is one of the progressive and public-spirited business men of Calhoun county, and it may consistently be said that his circle of friends is coincident with that of his acquaintances. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he is a charter member of the lodge of Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks in the city of Jackson. Mr. Callahan still remains on the roll of eligible bachelors and he maintains his home in the Clifton House.

GEORGE W. PERKINS. Another of the native sons of Calhoun county who has done well with his life in a business way is George W. Perkins, agent of the Standard Oil Company and wholesale and retail dealer in oils, in Albion, since 1882. For years he was identified as a member of the firm of Perkins & Steele with one of the leading enterprises in Albion, as dealers in coal, wood, flour, feed and illuminating oils, at wholesale and retail, but after nine years of that association, he withdrew from the firm, thereafter to confine his attention to the oil business exclusively.

Mr. Perkins is a representative of one of the old and honored pioneer families of Calhoun county, and was born in the township of Tekonsha, March 30, 1853. He is the son of Stephen and Mary Ann (Strobe) Perkins, both natives of New York state, who moved from that state to Michigan in 1849, locating in Calhoun county. The father first settled in Marengo township, where he leased a farm for a time and then bought eighty acres in Tekonsha township, to which he gradually added until he had one hundred and twenty acres. He improved his farm constantly, with new buildings and in many other ways as well, so that with the passing years his farm took on the appearance of the home of a well-to-do farmer, which, indeed, it was. He resided on the place until 1871, when he moved into the village of Tekonsha, and in 1884 he bought another farm in the township, on which he continued to reside until his death in 1885. He was ever an enterprising citizen and a man of energy and thrift, and a strong man in his convictions.

George W. Perkins received the usual early training of the country boy, and his education was commenced in the district schools of the community, and continued in the village school of Tekonsha. He remained on the farm until he was about twenty years old, and then purchased a team and wagon, when for six years thereafter he was engaged in draying in the village of Tekonsha. In 1882 he came to Albion and engaged in the sale of coal, wood, flour, feed and oils, dealing both at wholesale and retail. As mentioned above, he formed a partnership with one Francis E. Steele, and this partnership continued for nine years, during which time they conducted a large local business, as well as shipping to neighboring towns and cities. After nine years Mr. Perkins bought out his partner and continued the business alone until he disposed of it to L. C. McDougall, himself retiring from the firm, thereafter to give his entire attention to the oil business. He has enjoyed a large and worthy success in that business as such enterprises are reckoned in a city of the size of Albion, and has accumulated a goodly quantity of city

Hosted by Google

property, represented in the main by business blocks and store buildings in desirable parts of the city.

In 1874 Mr. Perkins married first, Miss Dora Simonds. She died in 1889, leaving two children: Glenn, who died, aged nearly sixteen years, and Elizabeth, wife of Louis McDougall, of Albion. He married secondly, in 1890, Mrs. Ella (Sears) Hoglin. Mr. Perkins is a prominent Mason, having membership in Murat Lodge No. 14, F. & A. M., Albion Chapter, No. 32 R. A. M. and Marshall Commandery No. 17. He is also connected with Moslem Temple of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of Detroit.

Mr. Perkins occupies a leading place among the business men of the city.

FREDERICK LEE. All his life Frederick Lee has been a resident of Fredonia township in Calhoun county, his birth occurring there October 16, 1856. He is a son of James and Christina (Katz) Lee, the father being a native of England, born there on April 3, 1832, and the mother of Germany where she was born in 1847, a daughter of William Katz. They became the parents of eleven children, of which number eight are now living, Frederick being the third in order of birth. Mr. Lee came to America with his parents in 1842. They were John and Sophia Lee. They located in Fredonia township, and there John Lee became the owner of sixty acres of land, working it up into a fine state of productiveness. On this farm they spent the remainder of their days. Their son James, the father of Frederick Lee of this review, after reaching years of manhood, took a farm on the west side of the township, and he gradually increased his land holdings until he was the owner of more than five hundred acres of fertile land. He was more than ordinarily successful in all his undertakings, and was known as one of the leading farmers in this section, as well as the most prosperous. He began with no capital beyond his natural pluck and energy, and when he died on January 31, 1904, he was known for one of the well-to-do men of the community. In 1874, on February 4, his wife died and in later years he married Miss Kate Malloy, of which union four children were born. Three of the number are yet living. Mr. Lee was a Lutheran in earlier years, that being the faith of his first wife, but when he married Miss Malloy he united with the church of her faith, the Roman Catholic, and has maintained his membership in that body ever since. He was a Democrat all his life.

Frederick Lee was educated for the most part in the district schools of Fredonia. For a time he was employed on his father's farm, but eventually entered a partnership with his brother, Charles Lee, now deceased, and they together conducted a threshing business, in which Mr. Lee continued for about twenty years. In 1897 he decided to settle down to farm life and accordingly bought the farm he now occupies, consisting of one hundred and forty-two acres, in addition to which he has a forty-acre wood lot, considered to be a valuable adjunct to his farm proper. He has erected suitable buildings on the place, and all are strictly modern and well appointed in every respect. He has every modern appliance and convenience known to practical and scientific farming, and in addition to his general farming operations, raises large numbers of stock, but principally sheep.

In 1908 Mr. Lee was united in marriage with Dora Snyder, a girl of German birth. They have no children. She, like her husband, is a member of the Lutheran church, and Mr. Lee is a stanch Democrat, in his political relations being a firm supporter of the cause. He is a member of the Maccabee Lodge, beyond which he has no fraternal affiliations.

Hosted by Google

ALFRED LATTA. There are inherent qualities in some men that insure success in almost any undertaking, and this genius of adaptability was well demonstrated in the career of Alfred Latta, whose death occurred in Battle Creek, December 13, 1886. A master of expedients, in his long and intimate association with the history of this section, he did not fail to make the most of opportunities presented, and was known as one of the representative business men and public-spirited citizens of Battle Creek, the scene of his well-directed efforts for more than a third of a century. Mr. Latta was born in the Empire state, being a native of Lewiston, Niagara county, where his birth occurred April 6, 1821, his father, John Latta, being an early pioneer and leading manufacturer of western New York.

One of a family of ten children, Alfred Latta received the benefits to be derived from a common school education, and subsequently passed two years in the Lewiston Academy. When twenty-two years of age, in 1843, he went to Wisconsin, on his way passing through Chicago, then a city smaller in size than Battle Creek, at the time of his death. He taught school in Wisconsin for a short time, after which he took up land for farming purposes, but soon returned to New York, where he entered upon an agricultural career. In 1848 he was married to Miss Martha E. Hill, and in 1853, came west again, settling in Michigan, and purchasing a farm on South Portage street, Kalamazoo, formerly owned by Judge Mitchell Hinsdale, a prominent pioneer of Michigan, and father of the late Hon. E. C. Hinsdale, of Detroit. Moving to this land with his family, Mr. Latta improved and added to it, and in 1865, on account of failing health, sold the land to D. C. Reed and during the next two years lived retired from active life. He then purchased the Downs farm of 600 acres, located near Ceresco, and entered the agricultural field on a large scale, but his health again failed and he sold out and came to Battle Creek in 1872, from that time on being engaged in real estate matters and house building. Mr. Latta belonged to that class of men to whom the city is indebted for its present prosperity. A member of the Congregational and Presbyterian church, (now the Independent Congregational church on Maple street), he is remembered by those of the older generation as an excellent neighbor, and as a generous friend to the sick and needy. He was buried in the family lot at Oak Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Latta was married in 1848 to Martha E. Hill, who died March 25, 1909, at the old home at No. 202 North avenue, where her husband had passed away so many years before. In her eightieth year at the time of her death, Mrs. Latta was esteemed and beloved by all. She was identified with the Women's Club of Battle Creek for many years, and had been almost continuously on the official board of the Independent Congregational church, where she was recognized by her associates as one of the most useful and valued members. She was also one of the founders of the Independent Movement, under the late Reed Stuart, and as a kindly, lovable Christian woman, her death was sincerely mourned by a wide circle of acquaintances. She and her husband had a family of five children: Mrs. A. R. McIntyre, of Battle Creek; H. A., the owner of a fine fruit farm in Oregon: Mrs. C. J. Paul, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Mrs. E. S. Glouer, of Tacoma, Washington; and Col. Frank H., of Battle Creek.

COL. FRANK H. LATTA. It is always gratifying to note the success which has been attained through personal effort, and the title of self-made man, so peculiarly American and so often mis-applied, is one of

Hosted by Google

which any person may well be proud, for it implies energy, application and integrity of character. Among the business men of Battle Creek, one who has attained a very appreciable amount of success in his private ventures and has also risen to positions of trust and responsibility in public life, is Col. Frank H. Latta. Mr. Latta was born in the little town of Lewiston, New York, situated on the Niagara river, in Niagara county, July 18, 1851, his father being Alfred Latta, a native of New York, who moved with his family to Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1853, and separate mention of whom is made in another part of this volume as one of the pioneers of Battle Creek.

Mr. Latta obtained his early education in the public schools of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and on coming to Battle Creek entered the twelfth grade, high school, being graduated after one year, in 1873. He then attended Olivet College for one year, and went to Chicago, but in the spring of 1875 returned to Battle Creek and at once opened a repository for the sale of carriages and farming implements, a business which he conducted successfully until the winter of 1898-99. At that time, in order to give his entire individual attention to his official duties he disposed of the business of which he had been the originator and sole manager for nearly a quarter of a century. Aside from his business career, Mr. Latta has manifested his public spirit in many enterprises affecting the welfare and prosperity of his city, and has found a congenial field in politics, in which he has been especially active. He has always been a stalwart Republican, and has done yeoman service as chairman of the county committee of Calhoun county and the city committee of Battle Creek, serving therein four and eight years, respectively. He has attended numerous conventions, has been alderman from his ward, and has always worked actively in the interests of his party. A personal friend of the late President McKinley, he attended receptions in the White House, and through his efforts the martyred president spoke in Battle Creek while touring the country, and in 1898 Col. Latta was the president's choice for the office of postmaster of Battle Creek. Subsequently, he was reappointed by President Roosevelt, and continued to act in the capacity of postmaster until 1906. He was a charter member of the Elks, and belongs to the Knights of Pythias and A. T. Metcalf Lodge No. 419, F. & A. M., and the Knights Templar. At the present time he is platting nine acres just one block outside the half-mile limit of Battle Creek, reached by the Garfield avenue car line, and known as the Latta Addition. He has already spent something like $8,000 in grading and making numerous improvements to this property, which will be a valuable addition to Battle Creek. He also built the block on the corner of Jackson and Jefferson streets, and owns considerable other city property, but has invested more extensively in manufacturing projects than in real estate, being interested in the Union Steam Pump Company, the Advance Pump and Compressor Company and the Citizens Electric Company of Battle Creek. Military affairs have been given a due share of Mr. Latta's attention. For four years he was aide on the staff of Governor Rich, with the rank of colonel, and while serving was instrumental in obtaining the acceptance of the local military company into the state service as Company L, the quota of state troops being otherwise full at the time. The credit for the formation of this company is largely due Mr. Latta, it being composed of some of the finest young men in the city, and ranked with the best in the enrollment of the state troops. During the Spanish-American war, Mr. Latta devoted both time and money in enlisting recruits, personally conducting one squad to Island Lake. For nine years he was a member of the executive board

Hosted by Google

of the State Agricultural Society, remaining thereon until the society was cleared of debt, and has served as a member of the Battle Creek Board of Trade, and as president of the local branch of the Standard Building and Loan Association of Detroit. He is duly recognized as one of the city's leading men, his success in business, his agreeable social qualities, his high character and his excellent judgment on all questions of public interest giving him influence of a potential nature among those with whom he is associated.

The marriage of Mr. Latta occurred November 10, 1881, when he was united with Miss Kittie Upton, daughter of the late Stephen Upton, a well known manufacturer of Battle Creek. One daughter has been born to this union: Belle, who was married November 18, 1907, to Wells L. Walker, of Battle Creek. Mrs. Walker graduated from the Battle Creek high school in the same room in which her father had graduated so many years before. Mr. and Mrs. Walker have one son, Frank Ward, who was born at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Latta, No. 171 North avenue. The family attends the First Presbyterian church of Battle Creek, and is prominent in church circles and social life of the city.

Hon John William Bailey. Battle Creek, Michigan has no better known resident than John William Bailey, ex-mayor, prominent lawyer and energetic Democrat, whose courage, resource and general ability has caused his name to be frequently mentioned in association with gubernatorial honors. A strong, fearless and hard-fighting Democrat in a city that is strongly Republican, he has long been the dominant figure in local politics, and the capacity he has displayed in executive positions has won the respect and admiration of Battle Creek citizens generally regardless of party and made him universally recognized as a man the force of whose influence is a leading factor in the city's government.

Mr. Bailey was born in Battle Creek in the home in which he still resides, at No. 24, College street, and is a son of Michael and Catharine (McCarthy) Bailey, natives of Ireland.

Michael Bailey came to the United States when fourteen years of age, and met and married his wife in Battle Creek. On their wedding day they started housekeeping in the family home, at No. 24 College street, which Mr. Bailey had just built on two lots purchased from Judge Sands McCamly, one of the old pioneers here, who had secured the land from the government. Michael Bailey spent forty years in the employ of the Michigan Central Railroad, being yardmaster at Battle Creek during the greater part of this time, and died in this city, August 9, 1889, his wife following him to the grave, November 24, 1892.

There were seven children in the family, all of whom survive: Mary, the wife of Peter W. McLee, of Battle Creek; John William; Julia, the wife of Robert S. Egan, an attorney of Elgin, Illinois; George F., of Battle Creek; Helen B., the widow of the late Edward L. Murphy of Marshall, the mother of four daughters; Catharine, who was principal of the Maple Street Number Five School in Battle Creek for several years, and for three years principal of the United States Government Schools at Ancon, Empire, and Gorgona, Panama, Canal Zone, and who now teaches at Boise, Idaho; and Anne, a graduate of the University of Michigan, who also taught in the high schools of Battle Creek, Duluth, Minnesota, and Toledo, Ohio, who is now a teacher in the Central high school of Detroit, Michigan. All the children graduated from the Battle Creek high school.

Hosted by Google

John W. Bailey was the youngest member of and the valedictorian of the class of 1876 of the Battle Creek public schools, Professor Hempl, now of Leland Standford University, being also a member of the class. After his graduation he accepted a position with the Michigan Central Railroad, drawing wood with one horse, and piling it on a stand for use in the old woodburning engines of that day. Later he was promoted to a position in the warehouse of the company, and subsequently became foreman thereof, later was baggageman, ticket-seller, cashier, and chief clerk and in 1883 was appointed freight and ticket agent of the Battle Creek station, which position he held until 1896 when he was appointed commercial agent of the Michigan Central at Toledo, Ohio, having charge of the freight business of the company and its fast freight lines at that point and also being in charge of traffic from the Ohio, Indiana and Illinois territory, and all points south, but during this time continued to make his residence in Battle Creek.

In 1899, Mr. Bailey left the railway service and entered the Law Department of the University of Michigan, graduating in the class of 1902 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He immediately commenced the practice of the law in Battle Creek, with George W. Mechem, a partnership which continued until 1905, since which time Mr. Bailey has continued in practice alone. In 1889, Mr. Bailey was elected a member of the Battle Creek school board, and was elected for three successive terms of three years each thereafter, but resigned in 1896 when he went to Toledo. When he was first elected mayor, in 1890, he was the youngest chief executive the city has had before or since that time. He served one term in that office, and in 1909, despite the fact that he is a Democrat and Battle Creek is overwhelmingly Republican he was again sent to the mayoralty chair.

When he returned to Battle Creek, after graduating with honor, from the University of Michigan, a full-fledged corporation lawyer, he set politics aside forever, as he thought, but the strenuous insistence of his own, the Democratic party, and of his friends in the Republican party finally induced him to break his resolution to keep out of public office and after one of the most spirited local elections ever held, when the votes were counted it was found that Mr. Bailey had been elected mayor.

When John W. Bailey, Democratic lawyer, was elected mayor, his friends and enemies alike forecast an administration in which the chief executive would be but a figure-head, unable to accomplish his desires through the unbending opposition of the antagonistic city council which was entirely Republican, but Bailey, a giant Irishman with a square jaw that sets like a steel trap when the occasion demands, calmly announced: "Having been elected mayor, I intend to *be* mayor." From the moment he took office, Mr. Bailey made good his claim, and his altercations with the Republican council attracted widespread interest. At that time, the Republican mayor, Charles C. Green, was in South American, and Alderman L. G. Nichols, President of the Council, was acting mayor. Custom dictated that such a condition maintain for two weeks before Mr. Bailey should appear in the crowded council chamber and with a great celebration assume the mayoralty. Custom, however, did not figure in Mr. Bailey's plans. He walked over to the office of City Recorder Thomas Thorne, where he forced Mr. Thorne to swear him in, and he left the office mayor of Battle Creek. This was an innovation, and the newly-elected Republican aldermen, not knowing just what to do, were also sworn in, one by one, just as Mr. Bailey had been, and the annual inaugural show was cancelled.

It was then that Mr. Bailey's resource, courage and determination

Hosted by Google

began to assert themselves. He appointed Dr. Eugene Miller, a Democrat, to the office of health officer, but the latter was immediately refused by the Republican council, and Mr. Bailey subsequently named Dr. A. S. Kimball, a Republican, who at the time was in Europe studying medicine, whom the aldermen accepted forthwith. Mayor Bailey, as soon as Dr. Kimball was confirmed, at once installed Dr. Miller as "temporary" health officer, thus gaining his point. Mayor Bailey wanted Elza Shoup for street commissioner, but the aldermen advised Charles Caldwell, chairman of the Republican City Committee, to keep his position as street commissioner, as they would not confirm Shoup. This Mr. Caldwell did, until he found that without the Mayor's signature he could not collect his salary, nor the wages for the men he hired, and until the mayor preferred charges of graft against him and started in to prove them, when Caldwell resigned under fire. Mayor Bailey at once appointed Shoup to fill the vacancy which appointment did not require the Council's confirmation.

In Mr. Bailey's election, Alderman F. H. Starkey, a Republican, had played an important part. Mr. Starkey had wanted the Republican mayoralty nomination and had been defeated by Mr. Jacobs, who at the election was defeated by Mr. Bailey. For a while Mr. Starkey was the mayor's only support, but subsequently, when he attempted to dictate to the chief executive, their friendship ceased, and Mr. Starkey became "opposition leader." After leading numerous encounters, Mr. Starkey became so pugnacious one evening that Mayor Bailey ordered his removal from the council chamber. Police Capt. McCarthy obeyed the mayor, and Mr. Starkey was ejected. He came back later, considerably cowed, but once again his belligerency arose, and the mayor instructed Chief of Police Farrington, a Republican, to eject the alderman. The chief refused, and the mayor at once suspended the chief for ten days. The mayor had not bothered to ask the police commission to co-operate, whereupon the commissioners became angry and made threats. Chief Farrington, however, remained suspended for ten days, when he resumed his duties after assuring the mayor that in future he would promptly obey all orders. None of the threats materialized. A $10,000 damage suit was brought by Starkey against Mayor Bailey and Capt. McCarthy, but it was not looked upon seriously by the general public, and it was finally dismissed.

The *Battle Creek Journal* bitterly opposed Mr. Bailey at the election and continued that policy through his two year administration. Mr. Bailey replied to their attacks in his message to the council and forced the *Journal* to print his replies which were bitter attacks on them, under its contract to print the council proceedings. As a result of Mr. Bailey's attacks on the *Journal*, that paper, at one time, had libel suits against him aggregating $100,000, all of which they later gladly dismissed because the mayor stated he intended to prove the truth of the statements.

The Bailey administration was a series of struggles, and scarcely a week passed without a clash of some kind, but the mayor always seemed to rout his adversaries. He dared not leave the city for fear a council meeting would be held without him, and was for this reason compelled to refuse invitations to banquets outside the city, and to refuse the invitation of the Wayne county Democrats to share the programme with ex-Gov. Folk and other notables at the big banquet held in Detroit at that time.

During the two years of the Bailey administration an overdraft and overdrawn accounts amounting to $65,000 inherited from the previous administration were fully paid. The wages of all men and teams

Hosted by Google

were raised. More sidewalks were built, more pavement put in, more sewers were built, more water pipe laid than in any previous two years in the city's history. The tax rate was not increased and at the end of the two years there was in the city treasury $87,000 cash, a larger sum than the combined total amount left by outgoing mayors during the previous twenty years. This was truly a remarkable showing.

The citizens of Battle Creek knew that John William Bailey was mayor, and there is no doubt but that he could again secure the office should he so desire. His reputation has spread far beyond the confines of Battle Creek and undoubtedly would have been the choice of the Michigan Democracy for the governorship of Michigan in 1912 had he consented to the use of his name, but for business reasons Mr. Bailey steadfastly declines to become a candidate for that high office.

For years, Mr. Bailey resided in the family home on College street with his sisters. Should he so choose, he could have a more pretentious dwelling, but it has been his pleasure to live in the same quiet, unostentatious manner that characterized the lives of his revered parents. His offices at Suite No. 309 Ward Building, are the finest in the city.

Mr. Bailey is prominent in club life, having been third president of the Athelstan Club, an office he held five years, and during his administration, the Athelstan and Nepenthe Clubs were consolidated into one organization, larger and stronger. He is also a member of the Country Club and the County and State Bar Associations, and is president of the University of Michigan Alumni Association of Calhoun county.

On July 14, 1910, Mr. Bailey was married to Miss Lillian May Cobb, daughter of M. W. Cobb and Eva May Cobb, a most estimable and popular young lady whose entire life had been spent in Battle Creek.

June 6, 1912, an eight pound boy was born to bless the union and to make the proud parents supremely happy. John William, Jr., is a strong, healthy boy and has his career already planned for him by his parents who hope he will follow the law, the profession of his father.

From every angle, John W. Bailey is an interesting figure, and his future career will be watched with intense interest by both his friends and his enemies.

GEORGE H. YORK. The active business career of Mr. York has been virtually one of constant and successful application in the position of a traveling commercial salesman, and after representing the great Chicago house of Marshall Field & Company in this capacity for nearly a decade he assumed a similar position with the extensive wholesale house of Bernstein & Myers, of New York city, which he now represents in a territory comprising Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and a part of Minnesota, as a salesman of women's and children's cloaks and suits. Mr. York is one of the well known and highly esteemed citizens of Battle Creek, which has ben his home during the major part of his life, and he is a scion of honored pioneer families of Michigan, both his paternal and maternal grandparents having established their residence in Barry county, this state, in an early day and both having immigrated from Cayuga county, New York.

George Henry York was born in Johnstown township, Barry county, Michigan, on the 8th of October, 1860, and is a son of Stephen V. R. and Helen (Van Dweezer) York, both of whom were born in Cayuga county, New York, whence they accompanied their respective parents to Barry county, Michigan, when children, both having been reared and educated in that county, where their marriage was solemnized, and where the father was engaged in agricultural pursuits, when he re-

Hosted by Google

moved to the little village of Bedford Station, Calhoun county. There he was engaged in the hardware and agricultural-implement business until about ten years prior to his death, the closing period of his long and useful life having been passed in Battle Creek, where he died. His cherished and devoted wife died on the old homestead in Barry county, both having been consistent members of the Methodist church. Of the three children the eldest is Jennie, who is the wife of George N. Champion, of Hartington, Nebraska, where he is now serving as clerk of Cedar county; George H. York, of this review, was the second in order of birth; and William Ellsworth, the youngest, was a resident of New Orleans, Louisiana, at the time of his death, which occurred when he was about thirty-four years of age.

George H. York was a lad of about two years at the time of the family removal to Calhoun county and here he gained his early education in the public schools, including the city schools of Battle Creek. He was employed for a time in clerical work in Battle Creek and in 1885, when about twenty-five years of age, he became a traveling salesman for Marshall Field & Company, of Chicago, in the handling of women's cloaks and suits. He retained this position for eight years, during four of which he maintained his residence in Chicago, and his assigned territory during the greater part of the time included the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and a part of Minnesota. At the expiration of the period noted he assumed his present position with the New York house of Bernstein & Myers, for which he has built up a large trade in his territory. He is one of the best known and most popular of the very appreciable contingent of commercial travelers maintaining residence in Battle Creek, and the family is one of prominence in the social activities of the city, the beautiful home, at 207 North avenue, being a center of most gracious hospitality.

In politics Mr. York pays staunch allegiance to the Republican party; he and his wife are members of the Independent Congregational church in their home city; and here he is a charter member of the lodge of Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, besides which he holds membership in the Athelstan Club and the United Commercial Travelers.

On the 22nd of March, 1888, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. York to Miss Jessie E. Morgan, daughter of William Morgan, an honored citizen of Calhoun county and one of whom specific mention is made on other pages of this volume. Mrs. York was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, and was a child at the time of the family removal to Calhoun county, Michigan, where she was reared and educated. She is a most popular factor in the social affairs of Battle Creek and is here actively identified with the Woman's League. Mr. and Mrs. York have one daughter, Helen M., who was born in Chicago, but reared in Battle Creek, where she availed herself of the advantages of the public schools, after which she continued her studies in St. Mary's College, at South Bend, Indiana. She was one of the most popular figures in the social activities of her home city up to the time of her marriage, and is a young woman of most charming personality. On the 23d of April, 1912, she was united in marriage to Whitney Payne, who holds a responsible executive position with the Curtis Publishing Company, in the city of Chicago, where they now maintain their home. The wedding and incidental observations were among the most important social events of the season in Battle Creek, the marriage ceremony having been performed in the Independent Congregational church and thereafter a reception was tendered at the home of the bride's parents, fully two hundred guests having been present on the occasion. From an account of the wedding appearing in a local paper are taken the following state-

Hosted by Google

ments: "The bride has a charming personality which has made her many friends, and a musician of talent, having devoted considerable time to vocal study in one of the leading conservatories of Chicago. She has spent nearly all her life thus far in Battle Creek and is one of the most charming members of the younger society circle. Mr. Payne is connected with the Curtis Publishing Company in Chicago and has a host of friends. His father, Will Payne, is editor-in-chief of the Chicago Saturday Evening Post."

GEORGE M. HOWARD owns and occupies one of the best improved farms in Tekonsha township, Calhoun county, Michigan. He put not only purchase money into this place, but also he invested his energies —laid his plans and worked them out. He first bought seventy acres, making a small payment to secure title, and being accorded credit for the balance. By careful management and continued effort he paid for this land and acquired more. To-day he is the owner of one hundred acres of choice land, on which are substantial buildings, including one of the best country homes in Calhoun county, and all these buildings and improvements have been placed here by him.

Mr. Howard is a son of George Howard, of whom personal mention will be found on another page of this work. He was born on his father's farm, in the township in which he now lives, October 21, 1852, and received his education in a district school—Windfall school district No. 7. Under his father's training, he at an early age became familiar with every phase of farm work, and he remained on the home place, engaged in farming, until he was twenty-seven years of age.

About the time he reached his majority, in 1873, George M. Howard was united in marriage with Miss Emily Hamblin, daughter of Charles and Cynthia (Smith) Hamblin, of Eckford township, Calhoun county. The Hamblins were New York people who came to Michigan in 1859 and settled on a farm in Eckford township. Here Mr. Hamblin was prospered in his undertakings, and at his death left an estate worth in the neighborhood of $20,000. Mr. and Mrs. Howard have one child, Lydia, who was educated at Albion and has made a special study of music.

Mr. Howard has always affiliated with the Republican party, but aside from doing his duty at the polls has taken little interest in politics. On one occasion he was nominated for local office, but refused to accept the nomination. Both he and his wife are members of the Baptist church.

JAMES W. MURPHY. Thirty years ago James W. Murphy, then a young man, began business life in Battle Creek, Michigan, with $5 as his capital in money but with more valuable assets in the way of energy, an industrious disposition, a natural business acumen and a tenacity of purpose that has made him the final master of every adverse situation. Today he is one of the principals of the Amberg-Murphy Drug Company Limited, which is one of the largest business establishments of the city of Battle Creek, occupying its own building of four stories, with a large warehouse on Madison street.

Mr. Murphy was born in Dansville, New York, on May 24, 1857, and when ten years old accompanied his parents to Michigan. In the country schools of Barry county and at the village school at Prairieville, Michigan, he obtained his education, at the conclusion of which he began to clerk in a drug store at Prairieville and continued to do so for three or four years. It was then that he came to Battle Creek, where he again took up duties as a clerk in a drug store. Two years later, or in 1884, he purchased an interest in the drug store of Isaac Amberg and

Hosted by Google

in the interim since then the partners together have built up the splendid establishment and trade which they now control. Mr. Murphy gives his whole attention to this business and is master of its every detail. He stands to the fore among the keenest business men of this city.

He is the son of James M. and Mary P. (Haas) Murphy, both of whom were born in New York State, were married there and came to Michigan in 1867. James M. Murphy, who died in 1875, was a blacksmith by trade and followed that occupation all of his life. He was a son of Patrick Murphy, who was born in the north of Ireland but emigrated to America, and settled in Syracuse, New York, where he resided until his death. Mary P. Haas, the mother, was a daughter of W. M. Haas, a native and a life long resident of New York. She was a member of the Episcopal church.

In 1884 James W. Murphy wedded Miss Jessie Figg, who at the time of her marriage was a teacher in the graded schools of Battle Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Murphy have one son Jesse W. Murphy, who is now associated with his father in the drug business. Mrs. Murphy is a member of the Adventist church. The fraternal associations of Mr. Murphy are with the Masonic order, being a member of the blue lodge, chapter and commandery at Battle Creek and of the consistory at Detroit, Michigan. He is a Democrat, as was also his father, but he takes only a voting interest in political affairs, his only entrance to the political arena having been when he once was a candidate for the office of city treasurer but was defeated on account of the large Republican majority at Battle Creek.

The thirty years that Mr. Murphy has been a resident of this city have been fruitful of a personal success, the earnest and close attention which he has given to his business during these years having not only builded up his own interests but at the same time having contributed to the growth and prestige of Battle Creek as a business center, and has therefore earned the high standing he enjoys both as a business man and as a citizen.

JOHN J. FLYNN. Ideas backed with indefatigable energy,—the desire and power to accomplish big things—these qualities make of success not an accident but logical result. The man of initiative is he who combines with a capacity for hard work an indomitable will. Such a man recognizes no such thing as failure and his final success is on a parity with his well directed efforts. John J. Flynn, who is now farming on the old Henning estate in Emmett township, Calhoun county, Michigan, has recently purchased a farm of three hundred and eighty acres in Marengo township, to which he will move in the spring of this year, 1912. He is a hard worker and through thrift and energy has won the admirable success which he enjoys as a prosperous and progressive farmer.

November 30, 1861, in Livingston county, New York, occurred the birth of John James Flynn, who was brought to Michigan by his parents in 1868. He is a son of Peter and Ann (Gibbons) Flynn, both of whom were born in Ireland, the former in county Kings, and the latter in county Mayo. The father came to America at the age of sixteen years and settled in New York, where was solemnized his marriage, in 1861. He moved, with his family, to Michigan in 1868, and located in the township of Fredonia, Calhoun county, where he was identified with farming operations until 1896, since which time he has lived retired. He and his wife now reside at Marshall, Michigan. They became the parents of six children, as follows.—John J. is the immediate subject of this review; Martin E. is engaged in the farming business at Emmett;

Hosted by Google

Frances is farming; Charles is deceased; Mary Ann is the wife of G. R. Conley, of Marshall township; and Peter, Jr., is a resident of Marshall.

John James Flynn was six years of age at the time of his arrival in Michigan and here he has since resided. His early educational training was obtained in the district schools of Calhoun county and subsequently he was a student for one term in Assumption College, in the province of Ontario, Canada. As a young man he learned the carpenter's trade and he was engaged in that line of work for a period of twelve years, residing during that time in Oregon, California, Washington and Chicago, being in the latter place during the World's Columbian Exposition. In 1895 he returned to Michigan and settled on the old Henning estate in Emmett township, Calhoun county. Here he is engaged in general farming and the raising of high-grade stock and he has been wonderfully successful as a farmer. In the spring of 1912 he contemplates moving to his fine estate of three hundred and eighty acres in Marengo township, having but recently purchased this large and well cultivated farm. In politics he is a Democrat and in their religious faith he and his family are communicants of the Catholic church.

February 1, 1893, Mr. Flynn was united in marriage to Miss Anna Margaret Tynan, a daughter of Michael and Margaret (Mathews) Tynan, the former of whom was born in Ireland and the latter in New York, of Irish parents. Mr. and Mrs. Flynn are the parents of one son, Leo John born November 25, 1895, now a student in Assumption College, at Sandwich, Canada.

ALFRED C. BEHLING, well known as one of the most prominent and prosperous farmers and feeders of Albion township, has been engaged in his present business since 1909, and it is in this enterprise that he has achieved his greatest success in business life. General farming and stock raising and feeding occupy his fullest attention and his operations are conducted on a generous scale.

A native son of Germany, Mr. Behling was born in Schifelbein, on April 12, 1871, and he is the son af Daniel and Augusta (Oldenburg) Behling, and the father was a sheep shepherd in his native land until he came to the United States in 1882. He settled on Hannah street, in Albion, there making his home for some eight years, after which he disposed of his city property, and bought an eighty acre farm in Albion township. He began farming operations there and was so occupied until his death, October 9, 1909. His widow still survives him and makes her home on Center street, this city.

Alfred C. Behling received his initial education in the fatherland, and after coming to Albion attended the public and high school, and thereafter for three years attended the night school department of the Three Rivers Business College located at Three Rivers, Michigan. When he was seventeen years of age he set about learning the trade of harness maker under the direction of the firm of Rausau & Alsdroff, with whom he remained for a term of three years, and for twelve years thereafter followed his trade as a journeyman harness maker. He spent seven years in business in Concord, and then purchased his present farm of one hundred and seventy-three acres. This farm was owned then by Lafayette Sillamen and was known as the Sillamen place. It had been in the possession of its owner for forty years or more, and he had erected thereon a substantial dwelling, three good barns and other buildings. Here Mr. Behling set himself at work as a general farmer, and how well he applied himself to his labors is evidenced by his splendid position today among the producers of the county. He is one of the

Hosted by Google

principal feeders of lambs in the township, and makes that a leading part in his enterprise. He buys these young lambs in spring by the carload, feeds them on grass until the cold fall weather comes on, when they are shut up in yards and sheds and fattened for the eastern markets. The products of the farm in the grain line is never sold; but is fed upon the place.

June 14, 1899, Mr. Behling married Miss Emma Ponto, the daughter of Gotlib Ponto, an old resident of Calhoun county. Three children have been born to them,—Ethel, Harold and Rachel. The family residence is located on an elevated plane commanding a splendid view of the surroundings and is one of the fine places of the community. The lawn is ornamented with native oaks and they have named the place "Oaklawn."

Mr. Behling is a staunch Republican, but has never been an office seeker, and has kept out of politics all his life. Although he began his career in a modest way, he has by continued energy and close application to duty, become the possessor of a valuable property and a thriving business. He is a man of ideas, and is well read on topics of the day, while he enjoys the esteem and friendship of a large circle of friends in and about his home community.

CHARLES P. COLLIER. An enterprising and prominent agriculturist of Pennfield township is Charles P. Collier, the present clerk of that township and formerly its treasurer, who also is a native to the soil of Calhoun county and is a scion of one of its earliest pioneer families. Stephen Collier, the grandfather of Charles P., removed from his native state of New York to Connecticut and from thence to Michigan in 1835, settling on a farm in Calhoun county, which, together with the whole state of Michigan, was at that time practically an unbroken wilderness. He was a wagon maker by trade and made some of the wheelbarrows that were used to haul out dirt when digging the mill race at Battle Creek. Later he took up his residence in the adjoining county of Barry but was always recognized as one of the pioneers of Calhoun county. Earl Collier, the father of our subject, was an infant but nine months old when his parents came to Michigan in 1835 and he therefore grew up familiar with all that was incident to pioneer life in this state. A portion of his life was spent in Barry county, but along in the '50s he returned to Calhoun county, where he became a successful farmer and where he spent the remainder of his life. His demise occurred in 1904. He was married to Lamyra Read, a daughter of Alonzo Read, the latter of whom was born in Vermont but early removed to New York, where he spent the remainder of his life as a farmer.

Charles P. Collier was born to Earl and Lamyra (Read) Collier in Calhoun county, Michigan on the 2d of April, 1862. Educated first in the country schools, he later attended the public schools of Battle Creek three and a half years. He began independent activity as an employe in a factory at Battle Creek and continued to be engaged in that manner five years. Since that time his whole attention has been given to farming. He became an independent owner of property in 1896 when he bought a farm of sixty acres five miles northeast of Battle Creek. Here he still resides and is successfully engaged in the general lines of agricultural industry and in stock-raising. He is a Republican in politics, is now clerk of Pennfield township, and has also served as township treasurer. Mr. Collier had but those resources within himself as his capital with which to begin life and he is therefore a self-made man, one who has grasped opportunity and has turned it into possession. Such men form the bone and sinew of any community and it is to such men

Hosted by Google

that Calhoun county owes its increasing prosperity and importance as a great farming community, as well as a commercial center.

On May 28, 1891, Mr. Collier wedded Miss Minnie Poorman, whose father, Chauncey Poorman moved from his native state of New York to Calhoun county, Michigan in the '50s and still resides on a farm in Pennfield township. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Collier: Ralph, Frederick and Florence (twins), and Bertha, all of whom are attending school.

GEORGE C. HICKS. But few citizens of Calhoun county, Michigan, if any, share the distinction of George C. Hicks as a native born son of this county who has remained a continuous resident of it seventy-three years, or nearly three-quarters of a century. The true mission of biography is to seize upon such points of character and career as may be presented for imitation, emulation and encouragement for the young and to preserve for future generations the record of those whose lives have been of usefulness to their community, contributing to its upbuilding and preservation. The career of George C. Hicks is a practical exemplar of a useful life. He bears further distinction as a veteran of the Civil war, as a son of a soldier of the War of 1812, and as a grandson of a patriot of the Revolution.

Mr. Hicks was born in Calhoun county, Michigan April 29, 1839 to William and Nabby (Younglove) Hicks. His father was a native of Nova Scotia but when five years old came to the United States with his parents, who first settled in New York but removed from thence to Michigan in September, 1836. They settled on a farm, consisting of the west half of the southeast quarter of section 17, Pennfield township, Calhoun county, being among the first to come to that locality. Battle Creek had not then become of much importance as a trading point. Here he acquired extensive land holdings and became one of the most prominent farmers of the county. He died in 1878. He had served in the War of 1812, and in politics was a Republican. Nabby (Younglove) Hicks survived her husband until 1883. Of the nine children born to these parents, George C. is the only one now living (1912). William Hicks, the grandfather of our subject, was of English stock, who fought throughout the Revolution in the English army against his wishes, and after its close removed to Nova Scotia and from thence to New York, where the remainder of his life was spent as a farmer. John Younglove, the maternal grandfather of Mr. Hicks, was born in Vermont but spent the most of his life in New York and died there. He was a patriot under General Washington during the Revolution and served in the Continental army seven years.

George C. Hicks received his education in the district schools of the early day, attended the public schools of Battle Creek one term, and was also a student at Olivet College a short time. He began work on his father's farm and continued to be thus employed until twenty-two years of age, when he enlisted for three years, on August 22, 1861 in Company H, Second Missouri Cavalry. He was discharged for disability. and subsequently re-enlisted. This regiment was known as "Merrill's Horse," the name being conferred by Mrs. General Fremont, and was in arduous and brilliant service for years. Mr. Hicks remained with his regiment three years, during which he participated in a number of the most serious engagements, and was finally mustered out at Chattanooga, Tennessee in June, 1865. Returning to Michigan, he again took up farm life, working on the shares with his father. In 1883 he bought his present homestead and now has 160 acres of fine land. Mr.

Hosted by Google

Hicks is extensively engaged in the breeding and raising of fine Guernsey cattle and also in stock of all kinds.

His marriage to Mary M., daughter of William Sabin, took place on November 22, 1865. Mr. Sabin was an early settler in Calhoun county, Michigan, but went to California in 1849 and became a miner and prospector, later going from thence to Peru, South America where he died. A son and a daughter have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hicks. Truman Victor Hicks, the eldest of the two children, attended high school and is also a graduate of a business college. In him his father has an able and enthusiastic assistant in the work of the farm, for he is fully imbued with the progressive spirit of the advanced agriculturist of the day and achieves results by scientific methods and not by chance. He is one of the best known young farmers of Calhoun county. The daughter Jennie Alice married Guy C. Adams and now resides in Nashville, Tennessee. Mrs. Adams is a graduate of the Battle Creek high school and taught four years in the graded schools of that city prior to her marriage. Mr. Adams is southern manager for the Advance Threshing Machine Company, with headquarters at Nashville, Tennessee, and has been remarkably successful in that business position.

Mr. Hicks is a Republican in political views, and fraternally is affiliated with the Free and Accepted Masons and the Royal Arch Masons.

EDMOND C. WEST. The demand for wholesome food supplies is constantly increasing, and recent national and state pure food laws have resulted in the placing upon the market of a class of goods of a vastly better quality than has ever before been given to the public. For these and other equally cogent reasons, the business of catering to this demand and giving out only first-class goods, is proving one of the most profitable and satisfactory in the various lines of commercial endeavor, and Calhoun county has its own quota of responsible grocers. Among those who rank among the leaders in this class is Edmond C. West, senior member of the firm of E. C. West & Son, of 270 East Main street, Battle Creek, whose well-appointed establishment is the reflection of all that is latest and best in all staple, fancy and green groceries, tastefully displayed with due regard to sanitation. Combined with his excellent stock, is a fair method of dealing, as well as good service, and consequently his volume of business shows a healthy and rapid increase from year to year.

Edmond C. West was born in Milan, Ohio, February 20, 1853, and is a son of James Jesse and Mary (Rogers) West, the former born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Ohio, their marriage taking place at Milan. The father was a mason by trade, following that vocation during the greater part of his life, although in his latter years he also devoted some attention to farming in Bellwood, Nebraska, where his death occurred. His wife passed away in Quincy, Michigan, neither she nor her husband ever having lived in Battle Creek. There were eight children in their family, four sons and four daughters, of whom six lived to maturity, and two sons served in the Civil war, both enlisting from Coldwater, Michigan. Henry was killed in the battle of Resaca, being a member of the Nineteenth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry; while James A., served in Loomis' Battery, and came safely through the war. Four children are now living, namely: Mrs. Harriet Fay, a resident of Quincy, Michigan; Mrs. Anna Rustine, also a resident of Quincy; James A., residing in Bellwood, Nebraska; and Edmond C.

Edmond C. West was seven years of age when his parents took their children to the town of Quincy, Branch county, and there he secured a

Hosted by Google

public school education. Following in the footsteps of his father, he learned the trade of mason, at which he worked for about fifteen years, in Quincy, Coldwater and Battle Creek, in which latter city he plastered the new hospital building that was subsequently burned. From Quincy he went to Constantine, Michigan, where he was engaged in the grocery business for three years, and then came to Battle Creek and embarked in a market business. However, after one year, he purchased a grocery stock, and in June, 1889, opened a grocery at No. 269 East Main street, which has since been moved away, the land belonging to the Grand Trunk Railroad. In 1905 he erected the block at Nos. 270, 272 and 274 East Main street, and at this time has his grocery located in No. 270, his residence being over the store. In addition to owning a large grocery establishment, with a complete line of all that is best to be found in this business, Mr. West owns various residence properties in Battle Creek, and is looked upon as one of his city's substantial business citizens. Politically, he is a Republican, but he has preferred to devote his time and attention to his business, and hence has not entered the political arena.

On December 8, 1874, Mr. West was married at Quincy, Michigan, to Miss Mary A. Hedge, daughter of Samuel K. Hedge, who is deceased, and they have one son, Julius H., born in Quincy, Michigan, December 29, 1876. He was educated in the schools of Quincy and Constantine, and subsequently took a course in the Michigan Business and Normal College, and since 1900 has been in partnership with his father, under the firm name of E. C. West & Son. He is a business man of much more than ordinary business ability, and through his efforts and enterprise the business has profited greatly. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and Elks, and resides at No. 27 Newark avenue. Julius H. West was married in June, 1904, to Miss Minnie Cooley, of Battle Creek, who came to this city from Scotts, Michigan, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Cooley, when she was quite small. Mr. and Mrs. West have one daughter: Dorothy M., born June 16, 1909.

JAMES W. HARRINGTON. The agricultural interests of Fredonia township, Calhoun county, Michigan, have for half a century had worthy representation in James W. Harrington. Mr. Harrington's identity with this locality dates back further than this, to 1856, when he came to Michigan, a poor young man, from New York. Here he worked farms on shares, and afterward as salesman with headquarters at Albion. In this latter occupation he was associated with a business man he had known and worked with in New York.

Mr. Harrington was born in Savanah, Wayne county, New York, July 4, 1833, son of Nehemiah and Jane (Patterson) Harrington. The Harringtons are of English descent, and Nehemiah Harrington was a native of Massachusetts. The greater part of his life, however, was spent in New York state, where he was engaged in a lumbering business, furnishing spars and masts for ships. He died in 1900. Politically, he was a Democrat, prominent and influential in local affairs. His wife, Jane (Patterson) Harrington, died at the birth of their son, James W.

At the outbreak of Civil war, James W. Harrington tendered his service to the Union cause and joined Company M, as First Corporal, Second Michigan Cavalry, with which he went to the front and entered the fray, being under command of General Phil. Sheridan. He was in the army three years. Among the engagements in which he participated were those of Corinth, Shiloh and New Madrid. At the expiration of his term of service, he returned to Michigan, bought a bakery in Marshall which he conducted for ten years. He then bought a farm in Fre-

Hosted by Google

donia township, Calhoun county, and here he has since lived and prospered. He has 240 acres of choice land, improved with good buildings, residence, barn, etc., all of which he erected; and here he carries on general farming.

Mr. Harrington was married in 1856 to Miss Matilda Bülars, and with the passing years sons and daughters to the number of twelve came to bless their home. The two eldest, Mrs. Jane Reil and Henry W. are residents of Marshall, Michigan. The next two, James G. and Franklin E., are on the home farm; Robert R. is a resident of Battle Creek, Michigan; Lavina V. is the wife of Dr. MacMillan of Denver, Colorado; Susan R. is the wife of Charles Schultz, conductor on the Grand Trunk; Ulysses Grant lives in Marshall; Mansfield E. is a traveling salesman for a wholesale drug house; Arabella E. is the wife of Elmer Bennett of Ohio; Queenie the eleventh child died in infancy, and Gertrude M. the youngest, is at home. Mrs. Harrington's father was an officer of the Royal House of Germany. She is a member of the German Reform church.

While Mr. Harrington has never been a participant in political affairs, he casts his franchise with the Republicans and keeps himself well posted on the doings of the day.

HOMER J. PAUL. A resident of Battle Creek for more than half a century, during which time he has contributed to the city's growth and development in various ways, Homer J. Paul is well known to the business men of this section, and is also honored and esteemed as a veteran of the Civil war. He was born in what is now Wyoming county, New York, January 29, 1830, and is a son of Lemuel J. and Sarah (Sykes) Paul, natives of Vermont, the former descended from Scotch ancestry, while the latter was of German descent. They were married in Vermont, but spent the greater part of their lives in Wyoming county, New York, where both died. Lemuel J. Paul was a farmer by vocation and became prominent in public affairs, serving as justice of the peace of his community for more than twenty years. He and his wife had three daughters and four sons, of whom only two sons survive: Homer J., and Cyrus L., the latter residing at Arcade, Wyoming county, New York.

The early education of Homer J. Paul was somewhat limited being confined to the rather circumscribed course of the district schools of Wyoming county. He came to Michigan from Genesee county, New York, where he had lived for about six years, in 1853, and during the following year settled in Battle Creek. As a young man he had learned the trade of carpenter, but during early life spent a great deal of time as a manager in a woodworking machinery manufactory. During the last year of the Civil war he enlisted as a private in Company F, Sixth Michigan Cavalry, and after a service covering about fifteen months received his honorable discharge at Salt Lake City, from whence he came home on foot, driving four yoke of oxen, after spending a year on the plains. Mr. Paul has led an active and industrious life, and has accumulated a comfortable competency. He has interested himself to some extent in building operations, and has erected about ten modern homes in Battle Creek, including his own handsome and comfortable residence at No. 192 North avenue. In political matters Mr. Paul is independent, voting for the man he deems best fitted for the office, irrespective of party ties.

On December 16, 1853, Mr. Paul was married in Valparaiso, Indiana, to Miss Sarah E. Norton, who was born April 27, 1834, at Mount Pleasant, Wayne county, Pennsylvania, daughter of Elijah E. and Sally (White) Norton, both her parents tracing their ancestry back to the

Hosted by Google

Mayflower, and both having ancestors in the Revolutionary war. Mrs. Paul was educated in her native place, where she resided until she was sixteen years of age, the family then removing to Genesee county, New York, where she met and married Mr. Paul. After a short residence in New York, Mr. and Mrs. Norton moved to Indiana for a short time, and in 1854 came to Battle Creek, Michigan, where Mr. Norton engaged in agricultural pursuits until his retirement. Both he and his wife passed away in this city.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, December 16, 1903. They have two sons: Clarence J., of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and H. Maurice, of Battle Creek. Clarence J. Paul received his education in the public and high schools and then turned his attention to law, studying in the office of Brown & Thomas, and being admitted to the bar a few days after he had passed his twenty-first year. He practiced in North Dakota for twelve years, but for the past sixteen years has carried on a law business in Minneapolis, and has met with well deserved success. He married Miss Alice Latta, a sister of Col. Frank Latta, of Battle Creek, a sketch of whom will be found in another part of this volume, December 28, 1880, and they have two daughters: Florence and Leila. H. Maurice Paul also received a public and high school education and a law training, but is now successfully engaged in the manufacture of the Battle Creek Heat Controller, which has been installed in numerous residences and office buildings in this and other cities and is a decided innovation in the heating line. On August 1, 1906, he was married to Miss Bessie Doy, of Battle Creek, and they have one son, Homer D. Homer J. Paul and wife also had a daughter, Florence, who died in 1872, when fourteen years of age.

WILLARD H. WARNER is a retired grain merchant of Albion, Michigan, of which place he has been a resident since his boyhood, having come to Michigan with his parents from New York state in 1855. He has seen a considerable experience in farm life and in the grain business, the latter occupation occupying his attention and energies for twenty years. Advancing age and a multiplicity of outside interests has caused him to withdraw from his connection with the grain trade, and he is now living a retired life.

Mr. Warner comes from a good old New England family, and was born in the town of Phelps, New York, in July, 1834. He is the son of William and Clara (Tower) Warner, both natives of New York. The mother was born near Syracuse, where she met and married her husband. In 1855 the Warner family moved from New York state to Michigan, locating in Albion, or more correctly speaking, in a section which is now included in the town site of that city. He there bought eighty acres of land and continued to devote himself to farming. He carried on diversified agriculture, and was successful and prosperous in his operations. He was known among his fellow townspeople as one of the intelligent, enterprising citizens of the town, and was ever held in high repute wherever his name was known. He died in 1873, his widow surviving him until 1886. They were the parents of two sons and two daughters. One son is deceased, Mary and Helen, the latter married G. M. Anderson, and she with Willard H., of this review, survive.

Willard H. Warner acquired his early education in the common schools of New York, and later attended a select school in his native town. After coming to Michigan he attended the public schools of Albion, then entering Albion College, where he pursued a course of study. He then devoted some little time to the home farm and was later em-

Hosted by Google

ployed by James M. Jamieson, who was engaged in the grain business, and with whom he remained for a number of years, and in that connection he became thoroughly conversant with every detail of the industry. In later years he engaged in the business on his own responsibility, and so thorough was his working knowledge of the business that from the first he enjoyed a pleasing success in his private venture. He bought and shipped large quantities of wheat and other grains, principally wheat, however, of which commodity he handled millions of bushels during his identification with the line. He continued to be thus occupied up to 1890, when he sold his interests to Frank K. Nowlin, who continued where Mr. Warner left off. Advancing age, and the press of other matters, as intimated in a previous paragraph, compelled his withdrawal from a business which was at its height of prosperity, but Mr. Warner has been amply occupied in attending to his interests of a more private nature. He was at that time the owner of two valuable farms, but he has since disposed of one of them.

Mr. Warner has been twice married. His first marriage took place in 1862, and the wife, whose name was Mary E. Wade, became the mother of one child, is deceased, as is also the child. In June, 1898, he married his second wife, who was Miss Flora Foster, the daughter of Ira and Lydia (Hicks) Foster, formerly of New York, and for many years a resident of Calhoun county. Mrs. Warner was but three years old when brought to this section of the country by her parents. The Warners have a very comfortable and happy home, over which she presides.

Mr. Warner is a stanch Progressive. He cast his first vote for John C. Fremont for president. He is very much in sympathy with the principles advocated by Colonel Roosevelt. He has given public service to his county in the capacity of deputy sheriff under Dr. D. R. Snyder, David Smiley and David Walkinshaw, and proved himself a capable and efficient officer. His long residence and extended business record has given him a wide acquaintance in Albion and the surrounding country, and he is a man much respected for his splendid qualities of character, and as such is held in high repute in his community.

William R. Cary. Among the native sons of Calhoun county, Michigan, who have achieved success as agriculturists mention may worthily be given to William R. Cary, who has succeeded in spite of adverse circumstances during the earlier years of his life, and by his own toil, his honest endeavor, and right living has established for himself the reputation of a worthy and highly respected citizen.

Mr. Cary was born in Marshall township of this county, March 10, 1845, Levi Cary, his father, who was a native of New York, came to Michigan as early as 1832 and took up a farm from the government, cleared it, and resided on it for a number of years. Later he became a resident of Pontiac, Michigan, and died there. He was the son of Archibald Cary, also a native of New York, who spent his entire life in that state as a farmer. The mother of our subject was Miss Irene Wilcox before her marriage, a native of Massachusetts and the daughter of parents that remained residents of the old Bay State until their deaths. She died in 1865 and was a member of the Christian church. While her children were still young the father left his family and then followed years of struggle on the part of the mother to provide for and rear her children. William R. Cary took up life's responsibilities at the age of thirteen and thereafter until his brothers had arrived at an age to assist him he labored for the support of his mother and her family. In 1864, a youth of nineteen years, he became a member of Company D, Fifth Michigan Cavalry, with which he remained at the front but a short time,

Hosted by Google

however, as he was sick and in the hospital during the most of his service. He returned to Michigan after the war and worked by the month until 1875, when he purchased forty acres of land in Allegan county of this state. Previous to this, however, he had removed to Calhoun county and had bought a tract of forty acres, a large portion of which he set out in fruit trees. This developed an orchard that was the source of large profits in subsequent years.

In 1874 he was united in marriage to Clara Fisher, a daughter of Christopher and Maria (Kane) Fisher. Mr. Fisher came to Michigan from his native state of New York in 1833 and settled first in Jackson county, but in 1837 transferred his abode to Calhoun county, where he became the owner of 86 acres of land and as years passed became well provided for financially. He died in 1896 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cary, who had cared for him in his declining years and are now the owners of his old homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Cary have four children living, namely: Jessie, who married Harry Miller, a farmer in Fredonia township, Calhoun county; Earnest, an employe in the American Steam Pump Factory at Battle Creek; Richard, who also is employed at Battle Creek; and Elmer E., associated with his father in the work of the home farm. Mrs. Cary is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In political affairs Mr. Cary gives his allegiance to the Republican party. His farm holdings now comprise 143 acres and all of his attention is given to his agricultural interests. His education was obtained in the district schools as far as books were concerned, but the more valuable part he acquired in the school of hard knocks and experience. In his struggle for success he had only those resources within himself upon which to rely and what he has accomplished therefore represents his own energy and ability. He has earned and enjoys a high standing among the best citizenship of his community.

Benjamin W. Phillips. Michigan received many accessions from the State of New York during the early and middle period of its settlement, its fertile soil having an alluring attraction to homeseekers and well repaying those of staying qualities and not afraid of hardships. In 1869 there became residents of Newton township, Calhoun county, Michigan, the family of Walter and Mary (Teague) Phillips, whose son is the subject of this review. The parents were natives of England, were married there, and five of their children were born before the family came to America. They located first in New York and there Benjamin W. Phillips was born on August 2, 1855. When the storm of Civil war broke over the country, Walter Phillips espoused the cause of the Union and entered the service as a member of a New York regiment, with which he participated in the battle of Gettysburg and in other of the hard fought engagements of that conflict. A son Thomas, now deceased, who entered the army at the age of eighteen, served until the close of hostilities and for a period was a prisoner in the infamous Libby prison. After receiving his honorable discharge the father returned to his family in Ontario county, New York, where he resumed farming and continued to reside until 1869, when he came to Calhoun county, Michigan, and bought a farm of 80 acres in Newton township. This continued the family abode until he retired from farming and took up his residence in the city of Battle Creek. He was a successful man in his business relations and had well provided for his old age. In politics he was a Republican. His wife was a consistent member of the Presbyterian church. Of the children born to Walter and Mary (Teague) Phillips, six are living and are as follows: Eliza, who married Arthur Bishop and resides in New York; Sarah, the wife of John McCombs, of

Hosted by Google

South Dakota; Mrs. Libbie Ward, also a resident of South Dakota; Robert, who resides in Marshall, Calhoun county; B. W. Phillips, the subject of this sketch; and Edward, a resident of Texas. Steven Phillips, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of England and died there after reaching the remarkable age of 112 years. He was a farmer by occupation and until his death was active in body, with his mental faculties seemingly unimpaired and as keen as ever. Thomas B. Teague, the maternal grandfather, also owned his nativity to England and spent his active years there as a shoemaker.

B. W. Phillips received his education in New York State and was old enough at the time of the war to remember some of the privations and hardships that so often attended the families of absent soldiers. He began life on his own responsibility at the age of thirteen as a farm hand. About a year after he had reached man's estate, or in 1877, he went west and bought 160 acres of land in Minnesota. This he sold, however, and in 1879 returned to Calhoun county, Michigan, where he bought a sixty acre farm in Newton township, the nucleus of his present holdings now comprising 235 acres of fine land. What Mr. Phillips had accomplished represents years of toil, industry and good management, together with good business acumen in the handling of his interests. Much of his land was timbered. This he cleared and he has placed good improvements upon the property. His attention is devoted to general farming.

December 25, 1879, he married Carrie Francisco, a daughter of Henry Francisco, a native of Germany and an early settler in Newton township who prospered there as a farmer and left a large estate to his four children. To Mr. and Mrs. Phillips have been born six children, as follows: Emery, now located in Battle Creek; Lottie, who married Herbert Salsbury and resides in Emmett township of this county; Henry, associated with his father in the work of the home farm; Oral and Goldie, at the parental home; and John, a pupil in the public schools.

Mr. Phillips is a member of the local Grange, and in politics is aligned with the progressive branch of the Republican party.

Arza L. McCutchfon has heen engaged in the real estate and fire insurance business in Albion since 1886, and he is without a doubt one of the best known, insurance men in Calhoun county today. He controls a goodly share of the fire insurance business of this city, representing a number of the most reliable concerns in that line known in the east, and is, on the whole, particularly well established. In addition to his other business he is justice of the peace, an office which he has held continuously since 1904.

A native son of Michigan and Calhoun county, Arza L. McCutcheon was born in Albion township on his father's farm, on May 10, 1855. He is a son of Rensselaer and Elvira (Bishop) McCutcheon, both of whom were natives of Tompkins county, New York state, from whence, in 1839, they removed to Michigan, and settling in Albion township, Calhoun county, and there securing land from the government. He followed farming until the close of his life, and died at his home in the city of Albion on May 2, 1880. His wife survived him until February 8, 1892. The McCutcheon family originated in Scotland, and in the early days of our National independence emigrated to this country, settling in New England, and finally finding a location in New York state. Their son, Arza L., acquired his early education in the district school and later entered Albion College, there pursuing his studies for three years. He left college in 1876 owing to depleted health and some little time thereafter opened a real-estate and insurance office in Albion, which he has

Hosted by Google

since continued to conduct. His success from the beginning was of an encouraging order, and, representing as he did some of the best companies in the fire insurance world, he soon gained a reputation which has been one of the most valuable assets in his possession. The business has grown with the passing years, until it has reached splendid proportions, and he is well known in and about Albion in the insurance business.

In 1900 Mr. McCutcheon married Miss Adah Stevens of Jackson county, a daughter of Oscar W. Stevens, one of the prosperous and highly respected citizens of the county. One son was born to Mr. and Mrs. McCutcheon—Thomas T., who is attending school in his native town.

Mr. McCutcheon is a Democrat of pronounced type, and gives unfailing support to the labors of that party. He has done his full duty as a citizen in Albion, and has served the city in various capacities. In 1897 he was elected mayor by a flattering majority, and during his administration a number of valuable improvements came to pass within the city. In 1904 he was elected justice of the peace, and as mentioned previously, he is still the incumbent of that office, having been reelected from time to time and serving with credit throughout the years.

Fraternally, Mr. McCutcheon is affiliated with Calhoun Lodge No. 60 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Lodge No. 113 Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, and of the Knights of the Modern Maccabees. He is a member of the Royal Arcanum and is past president of the local lodge of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Mr. McCutcheon is one of a family of six. His brothers, Isaac and Robert, are both deceased; Melissa, the only sister, married, and is now a widow; Otis E. McCutcheon is dean of the law department of the University of Idaho, and Orrin died July 4, 1912. He was a conductor in the service of the Michigan Central Railroad, and between that company and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul had served for forty-two years.

SAMUEL I. ABBEY. During a residence of thirty-five years in Battle Creek, Samuel I. Abbey has been one of the most useful citizens, successful in business, and a kindly, energetic, public-spirited member of the community. While he has not taken the conspicuous roles in public life, his citizenship has always been a wholesome factor for the welfare and advancement of his city.

A native of Madison county, New York, he was born on a farm near Brookfield, May 13, 1846, and was a son of Ira and Rhoda B. (Rhodes) Abbey, who were also natives of New York state. The parents came out and settled at Battle Creek in 1871, and for three years the father was superintendent of the institution which has since become the Battle Creek Sanitarium. In 1876 he and his wife returned to New York, and again made their home on the old farm of one hundred and eighty-seven acres which had been in the possession of the Abbey family for one hundred and twenty-five years. This old homestead lies in the beautiful Chenango valley within view of the Lackawanna railroad. On both sides the parents were descended from ancestors whose original home was at Hartford, Connecticut, and several of the mother's uncles were sea captains. The parents both died in California, where their bodies now rest. There were seven children in the family, two sons and five daughters, namely: Lucinda M. Abbey, of Battle Creek; Mrs. Wheeler, of California; Mrs. Eleanor Satterlee, of Battle Creek; Rosette Perry, of Brookfield, New York; Decilvin Abbey, who is now deceased; and Lillian Caron, of California.

Mr. Samuel I. Abbey, who was the fourth in order of birth, spent

Hosted by Google

his early life on the farm in the vicinity of Brookfield. Besides the district schools which he attended, he was also a student in a select school at Hamilton, New York, and for three winters was in the Bryant & Stratton Business College at Rochester. He did not choose a vocation but merely followed the leadings of his strong delight in horses and at an early age began buying and selling horses, which was his occupation throughout his residence in New York state. Most of his purchases were made in Canada, and were disposed of in the New England states.

In 1877 Mr. Abbey permanently located at Battle Creek, and engaged in the livery business at the Sanitarium barns, from which fact he was long known as the Sanitarium liveryman. Later he built the two barns at 169-170 Champion street, where he continued the business until 1907, in all a period of thirty years, so that at the time of his retirement from the business he was the oldest liveryman of the city. When the water works plant was established in Battle Creek, he had the contract for drawing all the water mains. He has always been an active, vigorous business man, and for a number of years has given much of his time to the development of real estate. He has built over forty houses, and good ones at that, and is building and selling this class of property all the time, having at this writing some ten residences in the city. He formerly owned the North Meadow farm in Assyria township, Barry county, located on the "base line," and sold this fine estate in 1892.

In politics he is a Republican, but is not an office seeker. His interests in behalf of the social welfare have been very quietly but effectively directed to the acts of helpfulness and real philanthropy which he and his good wife have for years carried on among the poor. Mr. and Mrs. Abbey are both members of the Adventists Tabernacle. Mrs. Abbey has for many years sung at funeral occasions there, and is still called on for that purpose. Mrs. Abbey, before her marriage, which occurred March 19, 1871, was Miss Mary L. Smith, daughter of Cyrenius and Louise (Sawyer) Smith. Her father was born in Vermont and her mother in Massachusetts, and they were among the very early pioneers of Michigan. In 1832 they settled in Jackson county near what was then the hamlet of Jackson, but the farm is now included in the city limits of Jackson. On this homestead, now covered by the residence and business buildings of Jackson, Mrs. Abbey was born, but her parents moving to Battle Creek in 1855, she was educated in this city. Before her marriage she learned the trade of printing and proof-reading, and a number of years ago looked after the proof-reading of the Sanitarium for Dr. J. H. Kellogg. The Kellogg and Smith families were close neighbors and friends here in the early days.

Mr. and Mrs. Abbey are the parents of one son, J. Lynne, who was born in this city, April 21, 1883. He married Miss Lillian J. Babcock, of this city, and they have three daughters, Dorothy, Beryl and Elizabeth. The son and family reside at 36 Buckeye street. Mr. and Mrs. Abbey's home is at 171 Champion street.

ANDREW C. HEBBLE. Among the enterprising citizens of Battle Creek who owe their success and advancement in life to their own industry and well-directed efforts, is Andrew C. Hebble, funeral director, who conducts one of the most modern establishments in this part of the state. Mr. Hebble is one of the valued citizens who were given to this city by the Keystone state, his eyes having first opened to the light of day in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on December 26, 1862. His father was Benjamin Hebble and the name of his mother previous to her mar-

Hosted by Google

riage was Lydia Shaffer, the former being a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Maryland. They were united in the bonds of matrimony in Frederick, Maryland, the town made famous by the incident of Barbara Fritche at the time of the Civil war. Previous to coming to Michigan Benjamin Hebble engaged in the carpenter's trade, but upon his location in new scenes he devoted his activities to the great basic industry, his farm being situated in Assyria township, Barry county. He still owns the old homestead farm upon which he has lived for a half century and resides upon it, his years now numbering eighty-three, but the good wife and mother passed away in the year 1900. Two children born to this couple lived to years of maturity, the subject's sister, Mrs. J. W. Bird, being also a resident of this city.

Young Hebble received his early education in the district schools of Barry county, Michigan, and having decided to devote his endeavors to business he became a student in the old Battle Creek Business College. In 1890 he came to Battle Creek and for a number of years engaged in mechanical work, but subsequently made a study of embalming and undertaking. He has now been independently in business for three years, since 1909, and has one of the large establishments, if not the largest in the field of any undertaker in Calhoun county. He has made an enviable reputation for square dealing and for work of excellent quality and enjoys the confidence of the entire community He is alert to adopt and secure every advance made in his science and every new and modernized equipment. He owns the white ambulance and has a fine and most complete outfit of funeral cars, together with casket service and flower wagon equal in beauty and excellence to the finest establishments in far larger cities.

Mr. Hebble is a Mason and exemplifies in his own living the ideals of moral and social justice and brotherly love for which the order stands. His affiliation is with Battle Creek Lodge, No. 12, and the Knights of the Tented Maccabees, the Moose, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

On November 30, 1888, Mr. Hebble was happily married to Miss Esther H. Smith, of Penfield, Michigan, thus establishing an independent household. Mrs. Hebble is a native of his home district—Assyria township, Barry county and was educated there and at Hastings, Michigan. Subsequent to that she attended the State Normal College at Valparaiso, Indiana, and then taught school both in Barry county and up to a few years ago in the schools of this city. The Hebble residence, an attractive and cultured abode, is located at 225 North avenue and is the center of a gracious hospitality. Mr. Hebble's undertaking establishment is at 108 West Main street.

INGRAM W. SCHRAM. One of the most prominent members of the Real Estate Board of Battle Creek is Ingram W. Schram. While engaged in a general real estate and insurance business, he is less of a broker than an actual builder and developer of city property. An illustration of his enterprise is found in his activities for the year 1912. With another real estate man, W. S. Eells, he has joined in the ordering of an entire trainload of building material, comprising altogether between fifteen and twenty cars of lumber and other material. In addition to the many houses which he has already erected in the city, he is planning to build, from his share of this train load, some twenty-five houses north and west of the Sanitarium annex besides about twenty other in different parts of the city. The building of houses for sale on easy terms has been developed by him to a large business, and many families now live in homes of their own who could never have attained

Hosted by Google

this element of independence without such facilities as are offered by Mr. Schram.

Although practically all of his business career has been spent in Battle Creek, Mr. Schram is a native of the northwest. He was born in Blue Earth county, Minnesota, October 21, 1874. His parents were Horace and Catherine (Donnelly) Schram, who were natives of Canada and were married there, and in 1872 moved to Blue Earth county, where the father took up one hundred and sixty acres of government land. This he improved into a good home and resided on it until his death, which occurred March 5, 1909. Though by nature very retiring and never participating in public life, he was an exceptionally good farmer and a very industrious and ambitious citizen. The mother now resides in the state of Washington. Of the ten children in the family, one daughter died when two years old, and the rest are scattered in Washington, Minnesota, Kansas and Michigan. The oldest is Mrs. William Franklin, of Blue Earth county; Mrs. M. H. Gregory, of Independence, Kansas; Mrs. E. C. Mericle, of Blue Earth county; Mrs. A. S. Coon, of Pomeroy, Washington, both she and her husband being osteopathic physicians; James A., of Pomeroy, Washington; Mrs. M. B. Gregory, of Battle Creek; George B., of Blue Earth county; Ingram W., of Battle Creek; and E. D., of Battle Creek. The three eldest were born in Canada, and the others in Blue Earth county, where all of them received their educations.

Mr. Schram was reared on the farm and worked there up to the age of nineteen, and then, in October, 1893, arrived in Battle Creek, which has been his place of residence for nearly twenty years. For the first ten years he was engaged in several lines of work, and then in 1903 established on a small scale the business which he has since developed to such profitable and large proportions. His office was at 35 Washington street until 1909, and since then he has occupied quarters at West Main and Washington. He is a member of the Real Estate Board, and is now president of the Home Land Company of this city. Politically, he is a Republican, but has never engaged in practical politics.

His pleasant home is at No. 392 Washington avenue North. He was married at Eaton Rapids, Michigan, November 3, 1897, to Miss Hattie Wilbur. Mrs. Schram was born and educated in that town, and was the oldest daughter of William and Marilla Wilbur of that place. Mr. and Mrs. Schram are the parents of three children, all of them born in Battle Creek, namely: Fern Lenora, aged twelve; Wilbur Alden, aged seven; and Marjorie Ruth, aged two.

WARREN D. BAKER. One of the wealthy and influential men of Calhoun county, Michigan is Warren D. Baker, whose estate of 305 acres all in one body lies in Burlington township and forms one of the finest homesteads of the county. Mr. Baker is not only one of the most extensive farmers of this section and a prominent man in public affairs, but his name has become very widely known in his own state and practically all over the Union as a breeder of fine horses.

He was born in Genesee county, New York on September 10, 1834, a scion of an old New York family that was originally of German lineage. His parents, Nathan and Eliza (De Mott) Baker, were both natives of the Empire State, where the former was born in 1796 and the latter in 1798. Nathan Baker was the son of Rev. Nathan Baker, who was born in New York and spent his entire life there in the Baptist ministry. Nathan Baker was reared and educated in New York. Early in his career he removed to Wisconsin; then about 1834 or 1835

Hosted by Google

he bought land in Le Roy township, Calhoun county, Michigan. About 1855 he brought his family to Burlington township and continued to reside there until his death, at which time he left a large estate. All of his life had been devoted to farming and with marked success. Warren D. Baker is now the only surviving member of this family. The maternal grandparents of our subject, also were natives of New York. After her husband's death Mrs. De Mott took up her residence in Michigan and died in this state.

Mr. Baker received both a common and high school education, his studies having been pursued in Racine, Wisconsin and in Battle Creek, Michigan. He began life for himself on a farm and has devoted many years to the great basic industry of agriculture, his efforts having been attended by the most successful results. Though now well advanced in years, he continues in the active management of his large estate of 305 acres and also raises considerable stock. As previously mentioned, Mr. Baker was for a number of years actively engaged in the breeding of fine blooded horses. He bred Robert Kernan, that had a record of 2:06¼ and later was purchased by John D. Rockefeller and used two years by him as a driving horse. Mr. Baker has sold horses all over the United States, the last one of which he disposed having become the property of A. W. Shulthis, of Independence, Kansas. Mr. Baker is a staunch Republican and has taken considerable interest in the political affairs of his party in Calhoun county. He was once a candidate to become a member of the Michigan legislature and failed of election by but one vote. He has accumulated wealth by the exercise of a keen business judgment and by a half century or more of useful and honorable activity, and by his individual enterprise and public spirit has been a potent force in contributing to the material wealth and prestige of Calhoun county.

Mr. Baker has been twice married. His first wife was Elizabeth Jenner, a daughter of Lomas Jenner and the great-great-granddaughter of Dr. Edward Jenner, an English physician who was the discoverer of vaccination. She died, leaving one son who died at the age of thirteen years. In 1876, Miss Martha Wells became the second wife of Mr. Baker. She is the daughter of Lewis B. and Lois H. (Kimball) Wells, both natives of New York, from whence they came to Michigan where they spent the remainder of their lives on a farm. The father was a blacksmith by trade. Mr. and Mrs. Baker have two children, both of whom have been afforded excellent educational advantages. Vivian D., their daughter, completed the literary course in the University of Michigan and was graduated from that well known institution in 1911; Gerald is a graduate of the high school at Union City, Michigan. Both are at home with their parents.

A. J. Baader. Since 1902 A. J. Baader has been engaged in the manufacture of cigars in Albion, and is known for one of the leading manufacturers in the community today. He is prominent, progressive and popular, and is recognized among the substantial citizens of the city in which he has made his home since his boyhood.

A native of Germany, born in Baden, March 19, 1863, Mr. Baader is the son of Carl and Hannah (Lane) Baader. In 1872 the family emigrated to America, proceeding at once to Manchester, Michigan, after their arrival in New York city. The father, a man of humble means, was for years engaged as a section foreman in railroad bed construction, and he died in 1876. His wife, ever devoted to him and a kind and indulgent mother, survived him until 1902. Their son, A. J. Baader of this brief review, received his initial schooling in his

Hosted by Google

native land, and after coming to the United States with his parents entered the Manchester high school, wherein his education was completed. When he was thirteen years old he left school and began to work for himself, his first employment being in the cigar business, where he was engaged by M. G. Lonecker at Jackson, Michigan, where he was for eighteen years and then in 1894, came to Albion, and in that early position he gained a comprehensive knowledge of the manufacture of cigars, to which business he has devoted himself from then to the present time.

In 1902 Mr. Baader started in business on his own responsibility and erected a suitable building for his work on the lot on which his private residence is located. For a time he was associated in the business with one F. A. Wocholz, under the firm name of Wocholz & Baader, and this partnership endured for three and a half years, at the end of which time Mr. Baader bought his partner's interest in the business and continued operations under the firm name of A. J. Baader & Company. Mr. Baader employs ten people in his factory, and his product is well known in this section of the country, supplying many of the neighboring towns.

On September 8, 1886, Mr. Baader was married to Miss Henrietta Beilfuss, and four children have been born to them: Minnie is the wife of Fred Ficher; Della is at home, as is also Mary and Carl, the youngest, is yet a student.

Mr. Baader is affiliated with various fraternal orders, among them the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America and the German Lodge, D. O. H., of which he is a supreme member. He is likewise a member of the Cigar Makers' Union and of the Illinois Commercial Travelers Association, also the Supreme Maccabees. He is a Democrat and in 1897 was elected alderman of the Third ward, serving two years in that capacity, and further proving the high order of his citizenship while filling the office.

L. P. SEBASTIAN is a member of the firm of L. P. Sebastian & Son, dealers in granite and monuments, originally known as Barry & Sebastian, when the firm was first established in Albion in 1891. Five years after the organization of the firm, Mr. Sebastian bought out the interest of his partner, Mr. Barry, and the new firm of Sebastian & Son came into existence. From its inception, the business has grown apace, and the operations of this concern today extend throughout Calhoun and many adjoining counties.

Mr. Sebastian is a native son of Calhoun county, born on one of its farms on January 27, 1859. He is the son of Frederick D. and Salome (Kimmer) Sebastian, both natives of Baden, Germany. The family emigrated to America in 1835 or thereabouts, and upon arrival in New York city came direct to Calhoun county, where they bought an eighty acre farm in Sheridan township, to which they added until their holdings totaled one hundred and sixty acres. They engaged in general farming and stock raising and Frederick Sebastian came to be regarded as one of the most successful farmers of the township. He died on the farm which had represented his home and the center of his activities from the time of his arrival in America, his death occurring in 1875, and his widow still survives him. She makes her home on the old Sebastian homestead, and although now in her eightieth year, is yet hale and hearty. Eleven children were born to Frederick and Salome Sebastian, named as follows: William W., Frederick D., Charles H., L. P., of this review, George E., Flora C., Kate A. M. and Reuben,

Hosted by Google

the last named being deceased. All the brothers are engaged in agriculture with the exception of L. P.

As a youth on the home farm, L. P. Sebastian attended the district school conducted in what was known as the little Davis school house. The winter months he was privileged to spend in study if he would, but the summer seasons were passed in work upon the farm, as was the custom of the day. He left the farm while yet in his teens, determined to learn the monument business, and secured employment with Ira D. Reed, with whom he remained for three years, and it was in this connection that he learned the business in all its minutiae. In 1891 he felt himself sufficiently conversant with the various details of the business as to permit of venturing out on his own responsibility, and thus was formed the early partnership between himself and Mr. Barry. As stated above, the firm continued as organized for five years, and in 1896 Mr. Sebastian took over his partner's interest, reorganizing the firm, and conducting the business alone until in recent years when he took his son into partnership with him, the firm being known since then as L. P. Sebastian & Son.

Both Mr. Sebastian and his son are skilled mechanics, and understand the monument business in its every detail. Their plant is one of the most complete to be found in the country and is equipped in the most modern and thorough fashion with the latest mechanism for the production of perfect work. The plant is located near the Michigan & Lake Shore Southern railroad tracks, which affords them the best of shipping facilities. They not only have a large local trade, but their business extends out into many of the adjoining counties, where they have placed many handsome and costly monuments. The granite used in their business is procured from the best known quarries in the United States, while their finest marble is imported from Europe.

In 1878 Mr. Sebastian married Miss Sarah Ellen Keck, of Calhoun county, a daughter of Michael Keck, a native of Germany and an early settler of Calhoun county. One son, Edward H., has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Sebastian. His birth occurred March 22, 1880. On March 22, 1904 he was married to Chloe E., a daughter of Lloyd and Eulalia Conklin of Manchester, Michigan and they have a son, Glenn and a daughter, Stella E.

Mr. Sebastian is a member of the Monumental Dealers' Association of Michigan, and he and his wife are members of the First Baptist church of Albion, of which he has been a deacon for a number of years. The family home is maintained at 1005 North Eaton street.

Otis A. Leonard, secretary of the Homestead Loan and Building Association, since 1893, secretary of the National Spring & Wire Company since 1904, and further identified with the fire insurance business in Albion, is one of the enterprising and progressive men of his community. He is a native son of Michigan, born in Linden, Genesee county, Michigan, June 17, 1868, and is the son of Allen and Lovina (Hyatt) Leonard. The father was a native of New York state and one of the early settlers of Michigan, the mother also being a New Yorker by birth.

Allen Leonard was one of the prosperous farmers in Genesee county, and was the owner of a well tilled farm, graced by a fine dwelling, with adequate barns, sheds and out buildings of every variety necessary to the conduct of a modern farm. He continued to be engaged in diversified farming until his death in 1880. His wife yet survives him and makes her home in Albion.

Otis A. Leonard acquired his early education in the public and

Hosted by Google

high school in Genesee county. He then entered Albion College, where he pursued his studies until his graduation in 1891, after which he located in Albion and engaged in the insurance business. He gave close and careful attention to his new enterprise and succeeded in building up a good business as a result of his energy and his fine business ability. He is now recognized as the leading insurance man of the city. In addition to his efforts in that direction, Mr. Leonard, has with the passing years become identified with some of the leading industries in Albion as stockholder and director, and, as mentioned in the opening paragraph, is secretary of two of the more important concerns. Among other equally important concerns, he is a director of the Albion State Bank, one of the most reliable banking institutions of the city.

In October, 1893, Mr. Leonard married Miss Elizabeth I. Fiske of Albion, the daughter of Rev. L. R. Fiske, who was president of Albion College for twenty years. Rev. Fiske had not only a local but a national reputation, and he served as pastor of the M. E. church for a number of years. No children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard.

Mr. Leonard is prominently identified with the Masonic fraternity, as a member of Murat Lodge No. 14, F. & A. M., also Albion Chapter No. 23, R. A. M. He is also a member of Albion Lodge, No. 57 of the Knights of Pythias. The family residence is located at No. 110 North Ingham street.

FREDERICK KATZ has lived his life thus far in Fredonia township, where he was born on September 13, 1856. He is the son of Peter and Mary (Frink) Katz, both natives of Wurtemberg, Germany, born there in 1832 and 1830, respectively, and the grandson of Peter Katz, Sr., who came to America in 1848, bringing his family with him. Mr. Katz, Sr., came on to Michigan immediately, his son Peter, the father of Frederick of this review, remaining in Buffalo for a period of two years. The father located a farm of three hundred and twenty acres of land in Fredonia township, living on it for several years, after which he sold out and bought land in Newton township, where one of his descendants, Charles Katz, Sr., now lives. The old gentleman remained there until his death in 1905. In 1850 Peter Katz, Jr., came to Michigan. He took up his residence with his father and became the owner of forty acres in Fredonia township, which he later sold and moved into Newton township, there becoming the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres. He continued to reside in Newton until his death in 1905. He was a very successful man, always prominent and popular in the community he called home, and took a leading part in civic affairs. He was a Democrat in his political faith, and a member of the Lutheran church, being one of the organizers of that church in Marshall.

Frederick Katz received his early education in the schools of Newton township, his educational advantages being somewhat meagre, as confined to the district schools of the day, and he was early initiated into the mysteries of farm life by his father. He continued to be associated with his father in the work of the home place until one year after his marriage, which occurred in 1880, when Catherine Keifer became his wife. She is the daughter of Philip and Elizabeth Keifer, prominent farming people of Fredonia, and early settlers of Washtenaw county. Both her parents are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Katz are the parents of four children, as follows: Lottie, the wife of Edward Lee of Fredonia; Myrtie, the wife of Frank Katz, also of Fredonia; Edith, who lives at home, and Elizabeth, who married Clifford Johnson. They have four

Hosted by Google

grandchildren, Blanche and Thelma Lee, Blaine Katz and Donald F. Johnson.

After his marriage, when Mr. Katz severed his connections with the home place, he rented a farm in Fredonia, which he held for four years, after which he lived for seven years in Newton, and then returning to Fredonia worked the Rowley farm for fifteen years, until he came to his present place. After the death of Mrs. Katz in 1897, Mr. Katz did not care to purchase a farm outright, and has since continued to rent, a plan which makes it possible for him to retire from active farm life whenever he feels so inclined without being incumbered by property affairs.

Mr. Katz is a Democrat, and has always been a leader in the political affairs of his township. He has held numerous offices, in all of which he has acquitted himself in a manner becoming a citizen of high integrity, such as he has ever been regarded. He served as township treasurer for two years; as clerk for five years; as highway commissioner for one year, and as supervisor four years. He has also been chosen as a delegate to various county conventions of the party, and is known throughout the county as one of its strong and steadfast Democrats. As to his churchly relations, he holds membership in the German Lutheran church, the church of his fathers, and fraternally he is identified by his membership in the Maccabees and the Modern Brotherhood of America.

Rev. Joseph S. Marx is pastor of St. John's Catholic church, at Albion, Michigan, where he has been located since 1901. He is a native of the Buckeye state, born in the city of Cincinnati, on December 31, 1875, the son of Andrew and Caroline Marx. The father was a pioneer of Cincinnati, and during his life there was variously engaged in business venture. He died in 1911, his widow still survives. The father held some minor offices in Cincinnati of a public character and was a stanch Democrat and a man of strong convictions. In 1881 with his parents Father Marx moved to Detroit.

As a boy at home, Father Marx received his early education in the parochial schools of Detroit and for a time attended a select school at Detroit, Michigan. From that city he was sent to Assumption College, in Canada, where he pursued his studies for some time, graduating in 1894. He then entered St. Mary's University at Baltimore, Maryland, in which institution he pursued his theological studies for a period of five years. He was graduated from St. Mary's in 1899, and in the same year was ordained by the Right Reverend John S. Foley, of Detroit, Michigan. Soon after his ordination the young priest became assistant to St. Mary's church under Father Riley at Adrian, Michigan, where he continued until 1901, when he came to Albion as pastor of St. John's Catholic church, where he is still occupied. In addition to his clerical duties in connection with his Albion pastorate, Father Marx supplies the Catholic church at Charlotte and Eaton Rapids, Michigan, his time being about equally divided between the two churches. In each parish he has a rapidly growing congregation, and his labors among his people have been rewarded by the increase in numbers and in churchly zeal among the members. Father Marx is a brilliant speaker and a scholarly gentleman—wide-minded and tolerant, and held in the highest respect and esteem in the communities in which his labors have made him a familiar figure.

Edward C. Mack. A retired agriculturist of Calhoun county, Edward C. Mack has accomplished a satisfactory work in his chosen occupation, and, feeling that he has performed his full share of hard

Hosted by Google

work is now enjoying to the utmost the well-merited reward of his long-continued and unremitting toil. He was born August 22, 1846, in Calhoun county, a son of William and Chloe (Cox) Mack, natives of New York state.

William Mack came from New York state to Michigan in early life, settling on a tract of heavily timbered land, coming at a time when the country was in its pristine wildness, with here and there an opening in which stood the pioneer's cabin. Lured westward in his search for gold, he went on a prospecting trip to Colorado, returned to Michigan, and then back to Colorado and there died.

Early thrown upon his own resources, Edward C. Mack worked at any honest employment that he could find as a boy and youth, laboring chiefly as a farm hand until 1864. In that year he enlisted in Company A, Seventh Michigan Cavalry, and was first sent with his command to Cedar Creek, later taking part in the Shenandoah valley campaign. Receiving his honorable discharge from the army in 1865, Mr. Mack continued his former occupation, being engaged in farming until his retirement from active business. He is a Republican in politics, and for forty years has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has held all of the chairs of his lodge.

Mr. Mack married, in 1866, Sarah Talmage, a daughter of Alva Talmage, of Calhoun county. She passed to the life beyond in 1899, leaving three children, namely: Minnie, wife of William McCracken, of Burlington township; Alva, living on a farm in Burlington township; and Chloe, wife of William Burrows, of Battle Creek. A brief sketch of the son, Alva P. Mack, may be found following this.

ALVA P. MACK. One of the foremost agriculturists of Burlington township, Alva P. Mack is carrying on general farming, including stock raising and dairying, with gratifying results, year by year adding to his wealth, and growing into the esteem and respect of his neighbors. A son of Edward C. and Sarah (Talmage) Mack, of whom a brief sketch may be found on another page of this work, he was born in Newton township, Calhoun county, Michigan, January 14, 1868. His grandparents, William and Chloe (Cox) Mack, were pioneers of Michigan, coming from New York when this section of the country was in its primitive wildness, the dense forests being habited by the dusky savage, while wild beasts of all kinds roamed at will.

Alva P. Mack spent a part of his earlier life in Clinton county, where his parents lived for a time, attending the district schools as a boy and youth. He began life for himself on a farm, working by the year until after attaining his majority. In 1890, imbued with the restless spirit characteristic of the true American, he went westward to Ontario, Oregon, where he secured a fine position in a general mercantile establishment, one of the largest concerns of the kind in the Pacific states, and was there employed for six years. Accumulating considerable money during that time, Mr. Mack purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, paying twenty-five dollars an acre for it, and embarked in farming. Making good use of his early training, he improved his property, and at the end of seven years disposed of it for one hundred dollars an acre, making a handsome profit on his former investment. Coming then to Burlington township, he bought the old Morehead farm of one hundred and twenty acres, and in its management is meeting with eminent success, the general appearance of his property manifesting to the most casual observer the thrift and care of the owner, showing conclusively that he has a thorough understanding of his business. Mr. Mack raises much stock, not entirely thoroughbreds, and pays considerable attention to dairying, a branch of the business that he likes.

Hosted by Google

Mr. Mack married Lulu Wellington Knight, daughter of Elbridge and Lois (Kenfield) Wellington, of Clinton county. Her father, who was a painter by trade, was also a successful farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Mack are the parents of five children, namely: Lloyd A., of Three Rivers, Michigan; Merle Edward, attending Union City high school, being a member of the class of 1912; Ella, also with Union City high school; Gary G.; and Lois. Both Mr. and Mrs. Mack are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Politically Mr. Mack is a Republican, and fraternally he is a member of Union Lodge, Knights of Pythias, in which he has passed all the chairs.

THOMAS ZELINSKY, M. D. As one of the most important small cities of the state of Michigan, Battle Creek has extended municipal services and facilities, and its government is a matter of interest to every citizen. To the office of mayor, Dr. Thomas Zelinsky, who was elected in the spring of 1911, has brought the broad experience of the capable physician and the energy and public spirit of a young citizen who represents the modern practical ideas of government.

Dr. Zelinsky was born at Madison, Wisconsin, January 16, 1876, but most of his youth was spent in Battle Creek, where he attended the public schools. In 1901 he was graduated from the University of Michigan with the degree of M. D., and in the same year located for practice at Battle Creek. Much of his work has been in surgery, in which skill and experience have given him a generous success, and he has enjoyed a high rank in the medical fraternity of southern Michigan. Politically a Republican, he served as health officer during Mayor Green's administration, and in 1911 was elected for two years to the office of mayor.

In the line of his profession he is an active member of the Calhoun County and the State Medical societies; affiliates with the Masons, the Elks and the Knights of Pythias; and is a member of the Athelstan Club of Battle Creek. His office is in the Post building, and his residence at 7 Bennett street.

Dr. Zelinsky married Miss Jessie Reasoner. She was born at East Leroy, a daughter of Daniel Reasoner. Her education was obtained in Battle Creek and at the Ypsilanti Normal, after which she was engaged in teaching at Hillsdale until her marriage. Dr. and Mrs. Zelinsky have one child, Frances M., born at Battle Creek, December 29, 1910.

EDWARD L. PARMETER, M. D. Dr. Parmeter, who is well established in his profession as one of the leading physicians and surgeons of Albion, Michigan, was born in Concord, Jackson county, this state, on November 9, 1851. He is the son of James R. and Caroline (Worth) Parmeter, natives of Vermont and New Jersey, respectively. They were settlers of Jackson county among the pioneers of 1831, that year marking their removal from New York to Michigan. They located on a Jackson county farm, and came to be classed among the most prosperous farmers of their section. Mr. Parmeter was born in 1802, and died in 1872, his death resulting from an accident. The wife and mother was born in 1806 and passed away in her fifty-ninth year. She was a daughter of William Worth, who had the distinction of being one of the first settlers of Jackson county, and a member of the first jury in the county. The paternal grandfather of the subject was Jesse Parmeter, a native of Vermont, who in later life settled in Jackson county, which represented his final home.

As a youth, Edward L. Parmeter acquired the fundamentals of an education in the public schools of his community, and later went to

Hosted by Google

Albion College. He left his studies there to engage in teaching, and passed one year thus occupied. He then began to read medicine with Dr. W. N. Keeler of Concord, Michigan, and after a time entered Bennett Medical College at Chicago, Illinois, from which school he was graduated with the degree of M. D. in 1876. Immediately thereafter Dr. Parmeter located at Concord, Jackson county, where he inaugurated the active practice of his profession, and one year later he came to Albion where he opened an office and engaged in general practice. He is now recognized as being among the oldest physicians of the city in point of practice, and with the passing years has built up a wide and lucrative practice.

In 1883 Dr. Parmeter married Miss Sarah E. Graves of Denver Colorado, a daughter of Col. P. Graves, who was a soldier in the Civil war and served as Colonel of the Twelfth Michigan Infantry during the Civil war. Dr. and Mrs. Parmeter have one son, Rolland L., who is a graduate of Rush Medical College of Chicago, and is now engaged in the active practice of his profession in Detroit where he is already well established.

Dr. Parmeter is a member of the Calhoun Medical Society, the State Medical Society, the American Medical Association, and in a purely fraternal way, has membership in the Masonic order, affiliating with Albion Lodge No. 14, A. F. & A. M. and Albion Chapter No. 32, R. A. M., as well as Albion Lodge No. 57, Knights of Pythias. He is also a stockholder of the Malleable Iron Co., president of the Union Steel Screen Company, and a member of the City Park Board.

EDWIN M. MOUNTEER. As proprietor of the Albion bakery, Edwin M. Mounteer has attained a pleasing success in the city which has represented his home and the center of his business activities since September 15, 1899. From a modest beginning in his present business he had gradually increased his capacity until today he bakes from two to four thousand loaves daily, and in addition to his large local trade, makes daily shipments to neighboring towns in the county.

Mr. Mounteer is the son of William and Louise (Tamblin) Mounteer, both natives of Canada. Edwin M. was born in Dresden, Canada, October 2, 1872. The father was a business man and came to Calhoun county, Michigan, September 15, 1899, and with Edwin M. engaged in the bakery business where he thus continued about one year. He then retired from business, Edwin purchasing his interest.

As a boy in Concord and Charlotte, Michigan, Edward M. Mounteer received his education in the public and high school, and after leaving off his studies was employed by Richard Baxter of Charlotte, in the bakery business, and later on by the Hill bakery, Grand Rapids, with whom he remained for a number of years, about five in all. He then embarked in the grocery business under the firm name of Gaskill & Co., an association which endured for five years further, and he then came to Albion and became associated with his father in the bakery business. In time he came to be the sole proprietor of the business, and under his wise and careful manipulation it has assumed its present wide proportions. In his bakery Mr. Monteer has installed the latest and most improved machinery known to the bakery business, and he employs on an average of ten experienced bakers. The business is well established, and ranks among the leading industries of the city. In addition to his interest in this business, he is identified with other industries in the city.

Mr. Mounteer married Miss Mary Marple, a native of Ohio, where she was reared and educated. One son has been born to them, Carl E., who is attending the high school of Albion, and during his vacations assisted

Hosted by Google

his father in the business. The family home is maintained on Irwin avenue, where they have a fine residence, with a beautiful lawn ornamented with native oaks, elms and rock maples. The place is easily one of the fine ones of the city.

Mr. Mounteer is a member of Albion Lodge No. 60, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is popular in business and social circles of the city which represents his home. He is a clever and affable gentleman, eminently deserving of the position he occupies in this community.

THOMAS FRENCH. Living on his pleasant homestead in Burlington township, Thomas French is numbered among the successful and well-to-do agriculturists of Calhoun county, where he has spent a busy life, actively engaged in the cultivation of the soil. A son of Martin French, he was born in this township, February 27, 1869, of pioneer ancestry, his grandfather, Thomas French, the first, having come to Michigan in territorial days, settling in the dense woods, and hewing from the forest the farm on which he spent his remaining days. His ancestors were eastern people of some prominence, his great grandfather, Hiram French, having been a life-long farmer in New York state.

Martin French was born, in 1838, in New York state, and as a child of four years came with his parents to Michigan. He grew to manhood in the log cabin which his father reared in the primeval woods, and gleaned his early education in the pioneer schools. Industrious and thrifty, he was quite successful during his earlier years as an agriculturist, becoming owner of a farm of one hundred and seventy-three acres in Burlington township. He subsequently met with reverses, ere his death, which occurred in 1896, losing considerable of his property. He was prominent in the Democratic ranks, and as township supervisor, and as township treasurer. Fraternally he belonged to Burlington Lodge, No. 333, Free and Accepted Masons, and served as its master. He married Belle Cole, who was born in New York state in 1840, and came to Calhoun county, Michigan, with her father when a young girl, he, David Cole, having located at an early day in Burlington township, where he cleared and improved a homestead.

Having acquired his education in the district schools, Thomas French became a tiller of the soil from choice, and after his father became involved he bravely assumed the management of the home farm, and in the course of a few years cleared it of debt. He now owns one hundred acres of fine land in Burlington township, his homestead being now one of the most attractive in the vicinity, and well supplied with convenient buildings and all the appliances for carrying on his work after the most approved modern methods. Mr. French is a breeder of Holstein cattle; keeps Black Top Delany sheep and Poland China hogs; and raises Buff Rock poultry, while his daughter makes a specialty of breeding Buff Leghorns.

Mr. French has been twice married. He married first in July, 1889, Agnes M. Mohardt, a daughter of Christian Mohardt, an early settler of Calhoun county. She died October 15, 1904, leaving two daughters, namely: Edith, a successful teacher in Burlington; and Katherine, attending school in Burlington. Mr. French married second, November 8, 1905, Mabel Leonard, a daughter of Charles Leonard, of Burlington. Politically Mr. French is identified with the Democratic party, but is quite independent in his views, and votes according to the dictates of his conscience without regard to party affiliations. Fraternally he is a member of Burlington Lodge, No. 333, Order of Masons; and of the Knights of the Maccabees, in which he is a policy holder.

Hosted by Google

WILLIAM WAFFLE. Among the enterprising and self-reliant men who are ably conducting the farming interests of Calhoun county is William Waffle, of Burlington, a prosperous agriculturist, especially noteworthy for his good citizenship and many excellent traits of character. A son of the late David W. Waffle, he was born, October 7, 1871, in Medina county, Ohio, where the first three years of his life were passed.

David W. Waffle, a son of John Waffle, was born in Ohio, March 6, 1833, and lived there until March, 1874, when he migrated with his family to Michigan, locating first in Washtenaw county, where he purchased eighty acres of land, and for four years was engaged in tilling the soil at the same time working at his trade of a carpenter. In 1878 he came to Calhoun county, and afterwards devoted his attention entirely to farming, continuing his residence here until October 11, 1910, when he was accidentally killed by a train, near Union City, his death being a shock to the community. He was an active member of the Republican party, and served many years as justice of the peace. Both he and his wife were members of the Congregational church. David W. Waffle married Hannah Sheffield, who was born in Sharon, Ohio, December 12, 1836, and died in Calhoun county, Michigan, May 3, 1902. Four children were born of their union, as follows: Charles, of Three Rivers, Michigan, is connected with the Sheffield Car Works; Ella, died June 10, 1898; William, the special subject of this sketch; and Mrs. Leila Kister.

About seven years of age when his parents removed to Athens township, Calhoun county, William Waffle was there educated in the district schools, later becoming familiar with the different branches of agriculture while working with his father. When he married, he lived for awhile in Union City, from there moving to Sherwood township, in Branch county, and later spending two years in Athens. Returning to Branch county, Mr. Waffle purchased eighty acres of land, and was there for a time engaged in tilling the soil. He afterwards bought his father's homestead, on which he lived and labored for four years, when he sold out. He then purchased his present estate of one hundred acres, widely known as "Fairview Farm," and, with the exception of two years, when he rented his land and lived in North Dakota, has since devoted his energies to its improvement, having now one of the best improved and most desirable farms in the vicinity. He carries on general farming and stockraising, specializing in Percheron horses. He is a stanch Republican in politics, and has served as justice of the peace. Religiously he is a member of the United Brethren church, but attends the Methodist Episcopal church.

On April 3, 1896, Mr. Waffle was united in marriage with Alta M. McCrary, the oldest of the three children of LeRoy and Alice (Moyer) McCrary, both natives of Michigan, her father's birth having occurred in Tekonsha township, Calhoun county, October 12, 1847. Her grandfather, Alexander McCrary was one of the early settlers of Calhoun county, and his marriage with Ella Dean was the first celebrated in Tekonsha township by white people. LeRoy McCrary died in Union City, as did also Mrs. McCrary. Mr. and Mrs. Waffle have a fine family of six children, namely: Alice, Ernest, Roy, Glenda, Gladys and Bruce.

ERVIN A. WARSOP. A wide-awake, industrious young man, possessing energy and good judgment Ervin A. Warsop, living near Athens, is a splendid representative of the thriving agriculturists of Calhoun county, his farm comparing favorably in its appointments with any in the vicinity. A son of Harry Warsop, he was born, December 29, 1881, in Athens township, of English ancestry. His paternal grandparents,

Hosted by Google

Joseph and Ann (Grey) Warsop, emigrated from England to the United States, settling in Michigan. After spending a short time in Detroit, they moved to Marshall, where the grandfather was for many years employed as a machinist in the Michigan Central Railroad shops.

Born in Nottinghamshire, England, in 1852, Harry Warsop was but two years old when he was brought by his parents to Michigan. He received his education in Marshall, and began life for himself on a farm in Athens township, Calhoun county. Disposing of his interests in that locality in 1895, he bought land in Athens township, and was there successfully engaged in general farming until his death, in 1900. He was a Republican in politics, and, with his wife, belonged to the Congregational church. He married, in Burlington township, Jane Remch, a daughter of George W. Remch, who came from Ohio to Michigan, and has since lived in Burlington township, where he is now numbered among the veteran farmers, being eighty-two years of age. Of the children born of their union, three are living, as follows: Daniel, of Athens, a rural mail carrier; Ervin A., the special subject of this brief sketch; and Loren B., living on the home farm.

Acquiring his rudimentary education in the public school of District No. 1, Athens township, Ervin A. Warsop completed his early studies at the Union City high school, where he was graduated with the class of 1900. He taught school the ensuing four years, but abandoned the desk in favor of farming. He bought his present farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Athens and Burlington townships, and in its management has met with unquestioned success, the land being under excellent tillage, and the improvements of a practical and substantial nature. He raises abundant crops each season, and makes a specialty of breeding Duroc hogs, a branch of industry which he finds profitable. In his political affiliations, Mr. Warsop is a Republican, and takes an active part in local affairs. He was for three years overseer of highways, and had the supervision of the construction of the first gravel road in Athens township, and at the present time is serving his second year as supervisor. They have four children, Edna, Joseph, Raymond and Reuben.

BURRITT HAMILTON was born in Sturgis, St. Joseph county, Michigan, October 4, 1869. His father, Robert C. Hamilton was the owner of several large farms in Michigan and Indiana, and here the son was endoctrinated in the gospel of hard work. Equipped with sound health and a high school education, he entered the University of Michigan in 1889 and graduated from the law department of that institution in 1891. During his student days, he took an active part in the literary activities of his college class, and served as secretary of the Jeffersonian Society. He was admitted to the bar in the Washtenaw County Circuit Court May 29, 1891, and opened an office for the practice of law at Sturgis, Michigan, in November of the same year.

In June, 1894, Mr. Hamilton was united in marriage with Miss Rena L. Tompkins. Four years later he moved with his family to Battle Creek where he has since remained. His home is in the country and commands a view of unsurpassed beauty upon the picturesque Kalamazoo river.

Mr. Hamilton enjoys a large general practice and is widely employed in corporation matters. He is the author of several well known text books, among which are works on commercial and corporation law. In 1911 he was chairman of the executive committee of the Michigan State Bar Association, and in 1912 he was elected to a second term as president of the Calhoun County Bar Association.

Hosted by Google

ANDREW J. FISHELL. An esteemed and thriving agriculturist of East Le Roy, A. J. Fishell is intimately associated with the advancement of the agricultural interests of this section of Calhoun county, owning and occupying a farm which he is constantly improving. He is a native of Michigan, his birth having occurred February 18, 1862, in Eaton county, where his father, the late John Fishell, settled many years ago. His grandfather Fishell, a native of Germany, came to America when a young man, and subsequently moved with his family to Michigan, where he spent the remainder of his years.

John Fishell was born in Rochester, New York, in November, 1827, and was brought up in Michigan, near Lansing, where his parents located when he was a boy. When ready to establish a home of his own, he bought land in Eaton county, and on the homestead which he cleared and improved, was engaged in general farming until his death. He was a Republican in politics, and a devout and conscientious Christian, having been a member of the Seventh Day Adventist church, to which his widow, who still lives on the home farm in Eaton county, belongs. He married Jeannette Anderson, who was born, in October, 1835, in New York state, a daughter of David and Abigail (Wood) Anderson, the former of whom was born in Ireland, of Scotch parentage, and came to this country in early life.

The youngest of a family of five sons, A. J. Fishell was educated in the district schools, and while young acquired such a thorough knowledge of the different branches of agriculture that his early experiences have been of practical benefit to him in his labors. Leaving the home farm at the age of twenty-five years, Mr. Fishell engaged in the printing business at Battle Creek, and for many years had charge of the stock department of the *Review and Herald,* displaying marked ability in that capacity. Returning to the soil in 1904, Mr. Fishell bought his present farm of one hundred acres in Athens township, and in its improvement has since been busy, among its more recent improvements having been the erection of a commodious and conveniently arranged residence. He carries on general farming, paying much attention to the raising of stock, having among other animals a fine flock of Black Top Delaney sheep. He is held in high esteem throughout his community, and, true to the religious and political faith in which he was reared is an Adventist and a Republican.

Mr. Fishell married, in 1887, Ida M. Jones, one of the eight children of Hiram and Philena (Barrett) Jones, early settlers of Eaton county, and respected members of its farming community. Her father died in February, 1907, and her widowed mother still resides in Holly, Michigan. She belongs to the Seventh Day Adventist church, of which Mr. Jones was likewise a member. Mr. and Mrs. Fishell have five children, namely: Irma B., who married Roy L. Foster and they live in Wisconsin; Hubert S., in Montana; Leslie B., a pupil in the Union City high school; Carroll M., a school boy; and Deal M., an infant.

MERRITT O. SHEPARD. As president of the Citizens Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of Calhoun county, Michigan, for the past twenty years, Merritt O. Shepard has won a wide acquaintance and an enviable standing in business circles of Calhoun county and in the city of Albion, which has represented his home since 1899. Previous to that year he had been identified with the agricultural industry from the year 1869, and in that, as in his present business, he was a successful and prosperous man.

Merritt O. Shepard was born in Genesee county, New York, on July 6, 1848, and is the son of Ira and Ruby (Chaddock) Shepard,

Hosted by Google

both natives of that state. The father was a farmer by occupation and was a native of Otsego county, New York. In January, 1869, the family removed from their native state to Michigan, settling on a farm just northeast of the city of Albion. He operated that place for six years, then moved into the city and made his home in Albion, living a retired life, until his death in 1890. His widow survived him until 1904.

The early education of Mr. Shepard was received in the district schools of his native state and in the high school at Pikes Seminary, Wyoming county, New York. It was in April of 1869 that he came to Calhoun county, and within that year he married, after which he settled on a farm in the town of Sheridan, in Calhoun county, and engaged in diversified farming. He was an industrious young man, and had received valuable training in agriculture as a youth at home, so that the thirty years he spent in this place rewarded him abundantly in material things. At the end of ten years he purchased his father's farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Albion, engaging in farming and stock raising. He later added ten acres of desirable land to his place, and for years was busily occupied in the raising of cattle, hogs, sheep and grain, in which he was agreeably successful.

In 1899 he removed from the farm to the city of Albion, to assume charge of the business of the Citizens' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and he has since made his home here. It was while living on the farm that he first became interested in the insurance company, and soon after its organization he was elected president, a position which he has held continuously for twenty years. The Citizens' Mutual Fire Insurance Company is undeniably one of the solid institutions of the county and is regarded as being reliable in every respect. Mr. Shepard has proven himself an able and efficient head of the company, and is one of the principal adjusters of the losses of the concern. Mr. Shepard is now doing a large and lucrative real estate business, under the firm name of Wright & Shepard.

As previously mentioned, Mr. Shepard was married in 1869, to Miss Elizabeth Van Slyke, a daughter of William Van Slyke, one of the old and honored residents of the county. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Shepard, as follows: Jessie M., who is deceased; Wirt V., a graduate of the Albion high school and now employed by the Gale Manufacturing Company; Carrie L. is the wife of George L. Schofield and resides in Kansas City, Missouri; Morrell D., also of Kansas City; Ruby C., who graduated in June 1912 from the State Normal School at Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Mr. Shepard is fraternally affiliated with the Masonic order, as a member of Murat Lodge No. 14, A. F. & A. M.; of Albion Chapter No. 32 R. A. M., and of Marshall Commandery No. 17, Knights Templar. He was also treasurer of the Board of Regents for three years. For two years he was assessor of the city of Albion, and was a director of the Albion State Bank for fourteen years.

GERMAIN SERVIS. Prominent among the Calhoun county citizens who are carrying on mixed farming with unquestioned ability and success is Germain Servis, of Athens township, whose finely improved estate ranks among the best and most valuable in his neighborhood. A son of James Servis, he was born, August 2, 1849, in Yates county, New York, where his childhood years were passed.

James Servis was born in New York state in 1821, and died on his homestead, in Athens township, Calhoun county, Michigan, in 1902, at the venerable age of eighty-one years. In 1857, taking advantage

Hosted by Google

of the cheaper lands in the West, he came to Michigan, and selected Athens township as the most desirable place in which to locate. Buying a tract of wild land, he erected a log house in the wilderness, and with true pioneer courage began the work of hewing a farm, a labor which proved successful in his case. He became active and interested in public affairs, supporting the principles of the Democratic party. His wife, whose maiden name was Sallie Barker, was born in New York, May 9, 1822, and died in Athens township, June 9, 1910, at the age of eighty-eight years, and one month. Her father, Enoch Barker, a native of the Empire state, spent his last years in Michigan. Of the children born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. James Servis, four are living, as follows: Orin, a farmer in Saint Joseph county, Michigan; Germain, the subject of this sketch; William, residing in Kansas; and Alice, wife of E. U. Hunt, a civil engineer in Battle Creek. One of their sons, Wilbur Servis, served in the Civil war, and was killed in its last big battle.

Educated in the district schools of Athens township, Germain Servis worked with his father until he was seventeen years old, after which he worked out by by the month for a few years, gaining valuable knowledge of experimental farming, and of the practical labor required in agricultural pursuits. He subsequently rented land on shares until 1899, when he invested his savings in land, buying one hundred acres in Athens township. With characteristic diligence and perseverance he began its improvement, and has met with signal success, having now a new house and substantial outbuildings, with his land under a good state of cultivation, and highly productive. Mr. Servis has wisely invested his accumulations in other land, his farm now containing one hundred and eighty acres of choice land, and being one of the best in the locality.

Mr. Servis married, January 1, 1874, Ella Bruce, who was born, June 8, 1855, in Athens, Michigan, just after the arrival in this state of her parents, George and Amanda (Gordon) Bruce, who came here from New York, their native state. Mr. Bruce, who was a life-long farmer, was born March 15, 1813, and died in Michigan, January 26, 1892, and Mrs. Bruce, who was born in New York, March 30, 1822, died in Michigan, March 12, 1905. He was a Republican in politics, and both he and his wife were members of the Baptist church. Mr. and Mrs. Servis are the parents of two children, namely: Ralph, who owns eighty acres of land, and is now working his father's farm on shares; and Merta, wife of George E. Adams, of Battle Creek. In his political relations Mr. Servis is an ardent supporter of the principles of the Democratic party.

CHARLES C. DE BOW, the owner of a well managed and highly productive farm in Athens township, has been a resident of Calhoun county for upwards of half a century, and occupies a place of prominence among the more intelligent and respected citizens of his community. A native of New York state, he was born, November 16, 1853, in East Bloomfield, Ontario county, a son of Henry De Bow.

Born in the Empire state in 1810, Henry De Bow was for many years a railroad man, being connected with the earlier railways of that state. A man of much enterprise, he foresaw the possible resources of the West, and made his way to Michigan, locating with his family in Athens township, Calhoun county on May 10, 1856. Purchasing eighty acres of land, he cleared and improved a homestead, on which he lived until his death, in 1883. A man of honest worth, he was held in high regard by his fellow townsmen. He was a straight-

Hosted by Google

forward Republican in politics, and a trustworthy member of the Baptist church, to which his wife also belonged. He was of French descent, his father and a brother having emigrated to the United States from France. The father served in the War of 1812 as an army officer, and some of his descendants served in the Union Army during the Civil war, while descendants of his brother were prominent during the same war in the Confederate service, being officers in the president's cabinet. Henry De Bow married Jane Brundage, whose father, a native of New York, was drowned while following his occupation of a deep-sea fisherman. They were the parents of six children, of whom three are deceased, one son, Garrett De Bow, having died while serving as a soldier in the Civil War.

Being reared to agricultural pursuits, Charles C. De Bow naturally adopted farming as his life work, beginning his career by working his brother's farm on shares. A man of push and energy, diligent in his labors, he made a success of the work in which he engaged, and in 1888 bought forty acres of the land included in his present fine estate of one hundred and twenty acres. Previous, however, to buying land, Mr. De Bow was for seven years engaged in business as a general merchant at Pine Creek, where he had an extensive patronage. His farm is under a good state of tillage, and, with its comfortable and convenient farm buildings, gives evidence of the thrift and prosperity of the owner.

Mr. De Bow married, January 15, 1882, Mary E. Tunison, a most estimable woman, and a congenial companion. Her father, Hampton Tunison, a veteran of the Civil war, located in Calhoun county in the seventies, and was here successfully engaged in tilling the soil during the remainder of his active life, residing in the county until his death, in 1909, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. Mr. and Mrs. De Bow have two children, namely: Floyd, living near Athens; and Guy, working on the home farm. Mr. De Bow is decidedly independent in politics, voting according to the dictates of his conscience for the men he deems best fitted for the positions, regardless of party prejudice, and both he and his wife are members of the Baptist church.

Edward P. Keep, president of the First State Bank of Tekonsha, Michigan, and an extensive dealer in lumber here and elsewhere, has been identified with Tekonsha for nearly four decades.

Mr. Keep is a native of the Empire State. He was born at Homer, New York, May 27, 1848, son of Timothy and Silvia (Backus) Keep. Both his paternal and maternal grandfathers were natives of Massachusetts. The former, Seth Keep, moved to New York when a young man, and spent the rest of his life and died there; the latter, Joshua Backus, who was a farmer, also passed the greater part of his life and died in New York state. Mr. Keep's great-grandfather, Simeon Keep, fought for independence in the Revolutionary war. Timothy Keep was born in 1801 and died in 1877, and his wife, born in 1805, died in 1874. They were the parents of six children, Edward P. being the fifth born and one of the three now living. Timothy Keep was a farmer, he owned 130 acres of land, and he carried on farming operations for many years. Politically, he was a Republican; religiously, a Congregationalist.

On his father's farm Edward P. Keep grew to manhood. His education, begun in the district schools, was continued at Courtland Academy, where he was a student for several terms. Then for eight years he spent his winters teaching school. He worked by the month on a farm for three years and was in the saw mill business in New York three years. On coming to Michigan in 1875, he settled at Tekonsha

Hosted by Google

and at once established himself in the lumber business, in which he has been engaged more or less extensively ever since. He furnished most of the lumber for the town of Tekonsha, and for years his lumber has found a market in nearly every part of Calhoun county and also in adjoining counties. Mr. Keep is also interested in banking, being president of the First State Bank of Tekonsha. This bank has a capital stock of $30,000; surplus and undivided profits, $6,000, and average deposits $125,000.

With public and political affairs, Mr. Keep has for years been closely identified, harmonizing with the Republican party and receiving honor in the way of official preferment. In 1899, he was the choice of his Republican constituents for representative in the State Legislature, and as such served with credit to both himself and them. While in the legislature he was a member of the Elections, State Prison, Public Lands and State Public Schools committees.

In 1878, Mr. Keep was married to Miss Eva M. Allen, daughter of Erastus and Sina (Feagles) Allen; and they are the parents of one child, Luta B., wife of Don Martinson. Mr. Martinson is engaged in the lumber business with Mr. Keep. Mr. and Mrs. Allen were natives of New York. They came to Michigan some time in the 40's and settled in Tekonsha township, where Mr. Allen was for many years engaged in farming. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church.

For a number of years Mr. Keep has been identified with the Masonic Order. He maintains membership in Washington Lodge No. 7, F. & A. M., and is Past Master of the Lodge.

HARVEY N. RANDALL, a representative business man of Tekonsha, Michigan, is a native of Calhoun county, this state, having been born in Tekonsha township, September 7, 1859, son of Harvey and Rhoda M. (Howard) Randall.

The history of the Randall family dates back to the time when John Randall accompanied William the Conqueror to England. "The name of John Randall appears in the noted Doomsday-book as one of the favored followers of the Conqueror, who received his share of the Saxon territory upon its division. While the name Randall often appeared in the official court records of England, the family cannot be said to have attained to any very high stations under kingly rule. There was an occasional Randall coat-of-arms, which the generations past considered evidence of prominence, but all such insignia has faded from sight and the descendants of John Randall are mostly found in the United States today.

"So far as known the first Randall to sail from England was William Randall, who left his native country for America in 1635, leaving the port of London, April 24th for Providence, Rhode Island. William Randall was born about 1600 and died October 13, 1693. He had nine children, the last of whom, Isaac Randall, lived to be 101 years of age. From the family of William Randall, the Puritan, have descended a numerous progeny, whose living representatives may be found in nearly every state in the union."

John Randall, the grandfather of Harvey N., was born in Bridgewater, Oneida county, New York. His wife, Lucinda (Granger) Randall, was born at Sheffield, Connecticut, October 29, 1793. Their family consisted of five children, namely: John G., who died in 1844; Charles G., who died in 1805; Sarah Ann, who died in 1888; Francis W., who died in 1887; and Harvey, who died January 22, 1897. The father of this family died in 1855; his wife, September 22, 1884. They were faithful members of the Baptist church.

Hosted by Google

Harvey Randall, the father of Harvey N., was born at the family home at Sweden, Monroe county, New York, June 10, 1819. In 1842, he came to Michigan, and six months later was joined by his parents and other members of the family. They settled on Section 19, one and a half miles east of the present village of Burlington. That same year, December 28, Harvey Randall was married to Rhoda M. Howard, daughter of Alonson and Priscilla Howard, residents of Tekonsha township.

"After marriage the real, stern work of life began. With no equipment but two strong hands, a brave heart, and a courageous spirit, loyally and earnestly supported by his wife, he set about establishing a home in the Michigan wilderness. Those early days of trial, against obstacles that would appall a young man of today, were filled with vicissitudes that would fill a volume with interesting reminiscences. The first child—John Wesley Randall—was born December 3, 1843—now a leading merchant of Tekonsha. Alinda M. (Randall) Nichols, wife of Dr. D. J. Nichols, of West Plains, Missouri, was born April 7, 1846; Arah H. Randall, proprietor of the Tekonsha Roller Mills, was born April 9, 1848; Arthur G. Randall, commissioner of schools of Calhoun county, was born August 9, 1850; Alice A. (Randall) Main, now living on the old homestead, was born April 3, 1855; Harvey N. Randall, the youngest child, merchant and produce dealer of Tekonsha. It was the fortune of this happy family not to be invaded by death, until the death of the mother, April 1, 1867—a period of forty years. A second marriage was made by Mr. Randall July 26, 1888, to Mrs. Charlotte E. Wilson of Tekonsha, who was born in Cayuga county, New York, August 15, 1832, but reared in Ohio."

When Harvey Randall settled here, his land was covered with heavy timber, "which was felled by the owner's ax and heaped into great log piles by the aid of an ox team. Farming at that time was crude, and the tools used were such as could be made at home with ax and saw. Wheat was sown on the virgin soil and dragged in with a bushy tree of moderate size. All the products of the farm were marketed at Marshall, a distance of nearly sixteen miles.

"Upon the homestead this God fearing, industrious couple, raised their family of six children, giving all of them educational advantages not dreamed of by themselves when young. Mr. Randall was a carpenter by trade and constructed all of the buildings upon his farm, together with the barns and houses of nearly the entire neighborhood. The Baptist church in the village of Tekonsha was designed and built by him in 1870. Conscious of his worth and ability, his fellow townsmen elected him to various offices from justice of the peace to supervisor.

"During the Civil war he served as enrolling officer and at one time assisted in organizing and drilling a regiment of troops, preparatory to their going south. In 1867 he was elected to the state legislature, serving one term, representing his constituency to their entire satisfaction. His greatest efforts were in the interests of the Christian religion. He was converted while a youth and identified himself with the regular Baptist church, of which he was a consistent member for nearly sixty years. During all of this long period he never shirked a duty, whether it came in the way of benevolence or Christian activity. And in all that goes to make up a strong and unfaltering manhood, worthy of the highest respect of his fellow citizens, he was every inch a man.

"Rhoda M. Randall, wife of Harvey Randall, daughter of Alonson B. and Priscilla Howard, was born in the township of Sweden, Monroe county, New York, August 2, 1821. Her parents were of English descent and noted for their intense piety. It was from these pious parents that Mrs. Randall received her deeply religious nature, which so dis-

Hosted by Google

tinguished her in after life. Her educational advantages were very meagre, being such as was afforded by the district schools of the day. In her youth she was distinguished for her cheerful, buoyant and trustful disposition, which afterward ripened into a character rich in all the Christian graces.

"In 1842, together with her parents and the following brothers and sisters, she came to Michigan: Alonson B. Howard, Samantha (Howard) Randall; Sophronia (Howard) Granger; George Howard; William Howard; Jennie (Howard) Strong. But two of this large family are now living—George Howard and Mrs. C. R. Strong. As narrated in the biography of Mr. Randall she was married December 28, 1842. Her death occurred April 1, 1887, at her home in Tekonsha, in a startling and unexpected manner. She was in her usual health, and retired at night with her husband, who awoke in the morning to find her dead at his side, with no evidence of the slightest struggle. Her sudden departure was deeply mourned, not only by her large circle of friends and relatives, but by the entire community. She was converted in a series of meetings held in the First Baptist church, Ogden, New York, in 1841. After coming to Michigan, she united with the Baptist church of Burlington, and subsequently with the Baptist church of Tekonsha, of which she was a faithful member until her death."

Harvey N. Randall, the direct subject of this article, was reared on his father's farm and educated in the township schools and the school at Tekonsha. His business career began in Tekonsha as a grocer. He was in the grocery business about ten or fifteen years, after which he opened up a stock of hardware, and subsequently he turned from hardware to produce, in which line of business he is now engaged. Also he is interested in banking, being a stockholder and director of the First State Bank of Tekonsha, and he owns valuable property in the town. He takes an active interest in local affairs, and affiliates with the Republican party, not, however, being a politician or an office seeker. As a member of the school board, he gave good service, and he can always be counted upon to support any measure or movement for the betterment of the town.

May 26, 1886, was solemnized the marriage of Harvey N. Randall and Miss Dell Warboys, daughter of John and Mary (Smith) Warboys. Her parents, born and married in England, came to America in 1854 and settled in Genesee county, New York. Her father was a butcher by trade, at which he worked for some time after coming to this country. Later he settled on a farm, and he was engaged in farming until his death, which occurred in 1906, at the age of eighty years. Her mother is still living in New York state. In the Warboys family were twelve children, all living at this writing. The father was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and, politically, was a Republican. Mrs. Randall was reared in New York. She came to Michigan to visit her sister, and here met and married Mr. Randall, and here she has since remained. She and Mr. Randall have had four children, of whom three are living: Howard, in business with his father; Dana, a teacher in Jackson, Michigan, and Wesley, attending school. Mrs. Randall is a member of the Baptist church.

HONORABLE FRED H. WEBB. Upon the long list of Battle Creek's eminent, useful and loyal citizens no name stands higher or shines with more brilliant lustre than that of Hon. Fred H. Webb, who for forty years has been intimately associated with one of the foremost industries of the city, and in addition has filled most ably and faithfully many public positions of trust and responsibility, while as an active member

Hosted by Google

of the local fire department he won a splendid record for bravery and efficiency. A native of Michigan, he was born, May 10, 1854, at Battle Creek, which has always been his home.

His parents, Caleb and Sarah (Green) Webb, were born, reared, and married in Oxfordshire, England. Immigrating to the United States in 1853, they immediately settled in Battle Creek, Michigan, and here spent their remaining days, the father being for many years sexton of the Oak Hill cemetery. They became the parents of seven children, of whom Fred H. was the first-born.

Spending the days of his boyhood and youth beneath the parental roof-tree, he acquired his education in the grammar and high schools. Beginning the battle of life on his own account in 1870, Mr. Webb worked as a farm laborer for two or more years. In October, 1872, he entered the employ of Nichols & Shepard Company, a firm with which he has since beeu actively connected being now one of its oldest representatives. Until 1887 he was employed in the wood working department, being then promoted to time keeper, and in April, 1888, being made paymaster. This responsible position Mr. Webb has since filled with characteristic ability and fidelity, having full charge of the payment of the five hundred and seventy employees connected with the operation of the extensive plant.

In October, 1872, Mr. Webb joined the Tempest Hand Engine Company No. 2, a volunteer fire company, and for thirty-one years was connected with the city's fire department. In 1875 he attended the National Firemen's Tournament in Chicago, while there gaining information of much value to him in regard to the fighting of fire. On March 8, 1880, Mr. Webb formed a new company of thirty members known as the Goguac Hook and Ladder Company, which was a volunteer company for a year and a half. In October, 1881, it became a paid company, its membership being reduced one half. Mr. Webb continued with this company the ensuing thirteen years, the greater part of that time acting as its secretary and treasurer. On February 5, 1894, he was elected assistant chief of the company, and held the position continuously until 1904, a period of ten years, when, just after his re-election for another term, he resigned from the company. As a fireman Mr. Webb did able and faithful service, his record being unparalleled in Battle Creek, and perhaps in the state, and to him the city owes a debt of gratitude for his efficient services in that capacity.

An earnest and active supporter of the principles of the Republican party, Mr. Webb has served his fellow-citizens in many public positions, and has ever discharged the duties devolving upon him efficiently and faithfully. In April, 1893, he was elected alderman from the Fifth Ward, and during that year Fire Station No. 1 was erected. In 1895 he was re-elected to the same office, and again in 1899, after an interval of two years, was again honored with a re-election as alderman. In 1896 Fire Station No. 2 was built. In 1901 Mr. Webb was again chosen alderman for a term of two years, but resigned the position in 1902 to accept that of mayor of Battle Creek, having been a member of the city council eight years, a longer period than that of any other incumbent. During his first term as mayor Fire Station No. 3 was built, and improvements of great value were inaugurated. As mayor of the city Mr. Webb stood firmly for a strong and clear administration, and for the enforcement of existing laws. His determined attitude in these respects offended certain classes of the people, and a united effort on their part was made to prevent his again filling the mayor's chair, but the better element rallied to his support, and his stand for law, order and justice was vindicated by his renomination and reelection as head of the municipal

Hosted by Google

government in 1903, receiving a majority of seven hundred votes at the polls, voters from all political parties casting their votes in his favor. Since that time Mr. Webb has served as a member of the Board of Public Works, having been appointed to the place by ex-mayor George S. Barnes, his brother-in-law.

Fraternally Mr. Webb is a member, and past chancellor, of Battle Creek Lodge, No. 35, Knights of Pythias, which he has represented three times in the Grand Lodge; a member of the Uniformed Rank of Knights of Pythias; and is a charter member, and past commander, of Calhoun Tent, No. 54, Knights of the Modern Maccabees.

Mr. Webb married, June 3, 1874, Miss Carola V. Babcock, and in 1899 erected, at No. 98 Green street, the fine residence which they now occupy, having previously lived in the four-suite apartment building which he erected.

DR. ROSCO GENUNG LELAND is an exceptionally promising young physician of East Leroy, although he has been engaged in medical practice only since 1909 in the autumn. In the time which has elapsed since then his advance has been rapid and he has already made an enviable place for himself in professional circles of the community, giving unmistakable evidence that the coming years will fix him among the leading medical men of this section of the state. He holds a number of offices, in connection with his profession and along other lines, and is a man to whom all who come within the sphere of his influence accord their esteem and confidence.

Dr. Leland's family was established in Michigan in the year 1835. In that year Andrew Leland, the grandfather of the subject, came from his native state, Pennsylvania, and settled in Michigan. One year later, George Leland, the father of Andrew, followed his son to this state, and here passed his remaining days, as did Andrew. George W. Leland, the son of Andrew and the father of Rosco, was born on September 27, 1846, in St. Joseph's county, Michigan. He was educated in the district schools and spent all his early life on his father's farm in Mendon township. Later he engaged in farming on his own responsibility, owning one hundred and eighty acres of land; he followed that occupation until he retired from active farm life in 1903. He was a Republican in his political faith and was a man of considerable importance in his town. He held the office of county treasurer for one term, and in other ways demonstrated his good citizenship in the years of his activity among his fellow townspeople. He attended the Methodist Episcopal church, and was a member of the Maccabees. In 1875 Mr. Leland married Lydia M. Heimbach of Mendon township, St. Joseph county, and she still lives. They had one child, Rosco Genung Leland, of this review.

As a boy and youth, Dr. Leland passed his days on the Mendon township farm of his father, and attended the primary and district schools of Angevine district. While he attended the Mendon high school, as a lad in his teens, he employed his leisure time as an assistant in the First State Bank of Mendon. In the spring of 1903 he was graduated from the high school and in the autumn following entered Kalamazoo College, where he spent one year in study, then entering the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He pursued a six year course there, receiving his A. B. degree in 1907 and his M. D. in 1909. Although he was a brilliant student during his college course, and neglected none of the other activities that engage the time and attention of the live student, he still found time to act as an assistant demonstrator of anatomy. In the year following his graduation he served as an assistant to Dr. Reuben Peterson, a specialist in obstetrics and gynecology, and during the sum-

Hosted by Google

mer of 1910 filled the position of instructor in obstetrics. That same Fall he came to East Leroy to take up a permanent residence there, and is now enjoying a large and steadily increasing practice. Although Dr. Leland is a general practitioner, he has made somewhat of a specialty of obstetrics and gynecology, and it is expected that he will some day do some original work along those lines. In addition to his other duties, Dr. Leland is a member and takes an active interest in the affairs of the American Medical Association, the Michigan State Medical Society, the Washtenaw County Medical Society and the Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine. He is the medical examiner for the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, the Michigan State Life Insurance Company, the Ladies of the Modern Maccabees and the Gleaners, and is health officer for the township of Leroy. Like his father, Dr. Leland attends the Methodist Episcopal church, and is a stanch Republican. He is a Mason and a member of the Phi Chi Greek letter medical fraternity.

Dr. Leland was married to Miss Clara Etta Doane-Carson on June 23, 1909, and they have one child, Elizabeth Carson Leland. Mrs. Leland is the daughter of James and Liola Doane Carson of Owosso, Shiawasee county, Michigan, but after the death of her father, who was a teacher, she made her home with an uncle, Dr. Jabez Perkins, who died in 1907. She was graduated with the class of 1901 from the Ypsilanti Normal College and took her A. B. degree from Mt. Holyoke College at South Hadley, Massachusetts, in 1907.

HONORABLE JOHN WAGNER. A man of rare ability and integrity, well educated and public-spirited, the late Hon. John Wagner was a worthy representative of those brave pioneers who settled in Calhoun county at an early period, and in the great work of transforming the country roundabout from its original wildness to a magnificent agricultural region contributed his full share, having cleared and improved a fine farm in Leroy township. Born in Wurtemberg, Germany, April 18, 1818, he was there brought up and educated, obtaining a good knowledge not only of the German tongue, but of the English language.

Emigrating to America in 1838, he lived for seven years in Cleveland, Ohio, and there won for himself a bride. Coming from there to Michigan with his family in 1845, he purchased eighty acres of land in Le Roy township, Calhoun county, and, as his means were very limited and his energy and ambition very great, he not only worked his own land but for several seasons earned money as a farm laborer, being employed by neighboring farmers. Prosperity smiled upon his every venture, and through wise investments he acquired a good property, at the time of his death, which occurred December 13, 1876, having been the owner of a farm of two hundred and forty acres of as rich and productive land as could be found in his community.

A stanch Republican in politics, he served his fellow-citizens in many offices of importance and trust, in each position performing the duties devolving upon him ably and faithfully. For five years, from 1865 until 1870 he was supervisor of Le Roy township; in 1868 he was elected to the state legislature, and while a member of that body was ever true to the interests of his constituents. Elected township treasurer in 1864, he served in that capacity for three years, and in 1873 was again honored with an election to the same responsible position. Mr. Wagner was liberal in his religious views, and a faithful member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, at his death being interred with the imposing ceremonies of that order, the burial services being beautiful and impressive.

Mr. Wagner married, in Cleveland, Ohio, Susan Grant, who was born

Hosted by Google

in London, England, April 25, 1823, and at the age of seven years came to the United States with her parents, who were among the older and more prominent settlers of Cleveland. Of the eleven children born of their union, two sons and five daughters grew to years of maturity, and four are now living, as follows: Julia, widow of Asbury Lybarker; Josephine, wife of Richard Vaughn; Frank N., married Aylett A. Wagner; Cora, wife of Henry Blackett. Mr. Wagner is a member of the State Central Committee of the National Progressive Party of the 3d district.

JOHN A. WAGNER. Prominent among the rising young attorneys of Calhoun county is John A. Wagner, of Battle Creek, who has started out in life with fair prospects for a brilliant professional career, his knowledge, energy and ability being sure to win him great success in life. A native of Calhoun county, he was born, May 26, 1885, in Le Roy township, of honored pioneer ancestry, his grandfather, Hon. John Wagner, of whom a brief account is given elsewhere in this volume, having been an early settler of this county.

Frank N. Wagner, his father, was born in Le Roy township, and is now living retired from active business pursuits at Battle Creek, Michigan, having a pleasant home at 50 Franklin Court. He married Aylett Amanda Addington, who was born at Battle Creek, a daughter of the late De Witt C. Addington, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this biographical work. Of the two children born of their union, one, De Witt Clinton Wagner, the first-born, lived but eight years, and John A., the younger child, is the special subject of this brief sketch.

Receiving his rudimentary education in Calhoun county, John A. Wagner was graduated from the Battle Creek high school with the class of 1905. His natural talents and mental calibre led him to choose a profession, and he subsequently studied to such good purpose that, in 1908, he was graduated from the University of Michigan with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Two weeks after receiving his diploma, Mr. Wagner began the practice of his profession at Battle Creek, and is meeting with well merited success, having won a fair share of patronage. While a student, he ever maintained a high rank for scholarship and good conduct, at his graduation from the Battle Creek high school, having been president of his class, and while at the University of Michigan being secretary of the Students' Lecture Association, and, likewise, president of the Taft Republican Club. Fraternally Mr. Wagner belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, and is a member, and the commander, of Calhoun Tent, No. 54, Knights of the Modern Maccabees.

On June 29, 1909, Mr. Wagner was united in marriage with Alice M. Goucher, who was born in Convis township, Calhoun county, Michigan, a daughter of Franklin and Lucy (Ackerson) Goucher, neither of whom are now living. Her father was also a native of Convis township, being of pioneer descent, but her mother was born in New Jersey. Mrs. Wagner was educated in Battle Creek, being graduated from the high school in 1905, in the class with Mr. Wagner, and afterward taking a course of study in the Michigan Business College. Mr. and Mrs. Wagner have one child, Alice Belden Wagner, who was born at Battle Creek, July 24, 1911.

DE WITT C. ADDINGTON, M. D. Distinguished as one of the pioneer physicians of Calhoun county, De Witt C. Addington, M. D., was for nearly half a century actively engaged in the practice of his profession at Battle Creek, during which time members of three generations, without doubt, were benefited by his medical skill and advice. His long and varied experience, his promptness and success in the conception and

Hosted by Google

treatment of disease in its various phases, and his untiring devotion to his many patients, entitled him to be called the "Good Physician." He was born, December 12, 1828, in Aurora, Erie county, New York, and died at Battle Creek, Michigan, December 2, 1903.

His father, Hawkshurst Addington, a son of Hosea Addington, was born on Long Island, New York, and as a young man moved to Erie county, New York, where he became a man of prominence and influence. He was at one time an extensive landholder, but subsequently lost a part of his property through speculating in Buffalo land. He married Huldah M. Abbott, who was born in Bennington, Vermont, a daughter of Seth Abbott, who was a worthy representative of an honored New England family, and both he and his wife spent their later years in Erie county.

Receiving his elementary education in the public schools of his native county, De Witt C. Addington continued his studies for a time at an academy in Buffalo, New York, and from the age of eighteen years until twenty-two years old, taught school, after which he served as township superintendent of schools. He then entered the office of Drs. Nott and Prindle, the leading physicians of Erie county, who wisely directed his reading for three years. He subsequently attended a course of lectures at the Buffalo Medical College, and when through; at the solicitation of his father, who had a very extensive and practical knowledge of indigenous plants and their uses, entered the office of Dr. Blakely, a prominent botanical physician, with whom he remained three years. Having spent seven years in preparing for his profession, Dr. Addington was engaged in the practice of medicine in his native county four years, and was afterwards located at McKean, Erie county, Pennsylvania, for two years, meeting with good success in both places.

Migrating to Michigan in 1857, Dr. Addington located at Battle Creek, which was then a mere hamlet, and from that time until his death made this city his home, although he spent four winters in California. Intelligent and progressive, he always kept in touch with the times, reading broadly, and carrying his investigations far and wide into the realms of medical science and research. In 1877 he was graduated from the Bennett Medical College of Chicago, Illnois, and while in that institution became a member of the Eclectic Medical Society. In addition to being a very successful and popular physician, the doctor was extensively engaged in the buying and selling of real estate, both in city and country property, and became the owner of valuable real estate in Battle Creek.

Dr. Addington was twice married. He married first Miss Bryan, a daughter of Judge Russell Bryan, of Eagle, New York, and of their union three children were born, namely: Spencer Howard, who died when young, in Erie, Pennsylvania; Helen M., widow of Frederick Russell, of Kansas City, Missouri; and Aylett Amanda, wife of Frank N. Wagner, of Battle Creek, and mother of John A. Wagner, of whom a brief biographical review may be found on another page of this work. The doctor married for his second wife Maria Antoinette Davidson, of Battle Creek, a daughter of William Davidson, who came from Cherry Valley, Otsego county, New York, to Battle Creek. She survives him, and is now residing at No. 13 Wabash avenue, North.

For many years the doctor's office was at the corner of Main and McCamley streets, on the site of the present postoffice building. Dr. Addington was independent, both in politics and in religion, and of him it can be truly said that no man had a stricter regard for right, justice, and truth than he, and not one was more kindly and charitable towards the poor.

Hosted by Google

COLONEL JOHN BALDWIN. If there be any solace or consolation to the hearts of bereaved families in the knowledge of loyal and faithful service on the part of their loved ones in the defense of the nation, then the widow and sons of Colonel John A. Baldwin are blessed four fold, even in their sorrow. For his was a life crowded to the very edges with the fullest activity and the most telling and effective service in his country's cause. Although he was cut off from the activities of life in the very prime of his manhood, having seen but fifty-two years of life, Colonel Baldwin had been privileged to give constant service to the nation in his various military capacities, on each and every occasion of action adding new honors and glory to his list of achievements. His death, which came on March 15, 1903, at Battle Creek, Michigan, was the direct result of illness contracted in his Philippine service, and terminated a life which, in the natural order of events, might have been spared to its country's service for another quarter century.

Colonel Baldwin was born in Fairfield, Iowa, on March 30, 1851, and he was the son of Thomas and Ann Braithwaite Baldwin. His boyhood years were passed in Westchester county, New York, where he attended the public schools and subsequently attended New York College in New York. In 1872, when he was twenty-one years of age, he was appointed second lieutenant in the Ninth U. S. Infantry by President Grant. For twenty years thereafter he was engaged in frontier service, and took an active and prominent part in the many struggles with the Indians during those years, notable among the many engagements he participated in being the fight with the Sioux at Tongue River, Dakota, in 1873. He was with General Crook in the campaign against the northern Cheyennes and Sioux warriors three years later and assisted in the chase after Geronimo in Arizona during the Apache war.

When war with Spain was declared, Lieutenant Baldwin, then Captain Baldwin, was serving on the staff of the governor of Arizona, and he did not rejoin his regiment until it sailed for the Philippines on March 24, 1899. He was in command of a battalion of the Ninth Regiment in the fight at Cavite and Manila, and was complimented for gallantry and efficiency by General Lawton, and was promoted to the rank of major and transferred to the Twenty-second Infantry. He served under General MacArthur in the campaign from San Fernando to Tarlac, and in all his Philippine service his action was distinguished by signal bravery and skill as an officer and soldier. He was breveted major for distinguished gallantry on the field of battle in the Philippines. His most arduous campaign was with Wheaton's expedition brigade over the Infernal Trail in the mountains of Northern Luzon. After his return home he was promoted to the Sixteenth Infantry and breveted Colonel for distinguished and gallant service in the Philippines. He won distinctive praise and mention in the press of the nation for his exceeding gallantry early in the Spanish war, and from a New York newspaper is quoted the glaring three column headlines appearing on the morning of August 5, 1899: "Through a galling fire led by Major John A. Baldwin, the brave boys of the Ninth Infantry saved the Colorado Volunteers from annihilation at Guadeloupe Ridge." Many were the tributes paid to Col. Baldwin in praise of his service to his country and the flag in those days of strife, but lack of space renders impossible more than the merest mention of the fact.

Arduous service in the Philippines, together with the unfamiliar climatic conditions, had sapped the strength of the heretofore strong and rugged soldier, and on his return from the islands he was compelled to take the first sick-leave in all the years of his service. In 1902 he came to Battle Creek in search of health at the Sanitarium, and here

Hosted by Google

he remained until his death in the following year. Funeral services were held at St. Thomas Episcopalian church in this city and interment made at Arlington cemetery, Washington, D. C. It was a military funeral and conducted under the auspices of the Battle Creek Commandery of Knights Templar. A detail of United States officers accompanied the remains from this city, and the pallbearers were: Hon. E. C. Hinman, Charles F. Bock, F. H. Boughton, L. B. Brocket, B. J. Owen, Col. F. H. Latta, Dr. Lamoreaux and A. J. Little. He was buried with civic and military honors. Colonel Baldwin was an intimate friend and associate of the famous Generals Funston and Otis, and was well known in army circles throughout the country for his gallant service and brilliant military achievements. His untimely death called forth many expressions of regret and sincerest personal sorrow, and his widow received innumerable letters of sympathy, many of them coming from such men as Major-General Lloyd Wheaton, General Frederick Funston, General E. S. Otis, Captain Hodges, Colonel James Reagan, and countless others of high standing in military circles, all testifying to the magnificent courage, the splendid achievement, the general esteem and popularity of the man, both as a soldier and in his private capacity.

Colonel Baldwin was the second United States Army officer to be made high priest in the Masonic Lodge of which he was a member at Sackett Harbor, and appropriate resolutions were adopted by this lodge, a copy of which it is deemed most appropriate to incorporate in this brief memorial sketch, attesting as it does to the high standing of the Colonel in the hearts of his fellow men. Here follows a copy of the resolutions: "To the E. H. P., officers and companions of Sackett Harbor Chapter No. 68, R. A. M., April 21, 1903.

"WHEREAS, a few weeks have passed away since the mournful tidings reached the outer door of our earthly Temple that a beloved companion had been called to that Temple above, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, Excellent Past High Priest, John A. Baldwin is no more. He was one whom nature had liberally endowed with all those sweet traits of character that contribute so much to the social congeniality and universal fraternity of man.

"As long as we sojourn upon earth may we who were personally associated with him in our order revere and pay loving tribute and respect to his memory. He was exalted to the most sublime degree of Royal Arch Mason in Sackett Harbor Chapter No. 68 March 22, 1892. He served this Chapter as King two years and as Excellent High Priest one year.

"His career as an officer in the United States Army was more than an ordinarily honorable one, as was attested by his superior officers in the field. He held the high rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the United States army at the time of his death.

"Companion John A. Baldwin died at Battle Creek, Michigan, March 15, 1903. His labors are over and he rests in the peaceful embrace of the eternal sleep, but the influence of his labors and of his many good deeds will remain as a halo of glory about his name. A man dies, and the place that once knew him knows him no more, but his expressed thoughts and words will influence in a silent manner generations who never spoke his name. And so our companion, though dead, yet liveth in the hearts of men, and though silent, yet speaketh to generations to come. How blessed to close life's record with a knowledge that there remains a stream of personal influence whose exhaustless source has risen in some kind word spoken, some good deed done or in some noble effort to benefit mankind!

"RESOLVED, That while we humbly submit to the will of the Grand

Hosted by Google

Architect of the Universe, we deeply mourn the loss of our late Companion John A. Baldwin.

"RESOLVED, That in the death of Champion Baldwin the chapter has lost a pillar of strength and support, his wife a loving husband, his sons an indulgent father, and the community an honest and esteemed citizen.

"RESOLVED, That we extend to the widow and sons our deep and heart felt sympathy. We commend them to Him who doeth all things well, who in His infinite love and mercy will help them bear their great affliction.

"RESOLVED, That as a tribute of respect to the memory of our late companion, the furniture and jewels of this Chapter be draped in mourning for two months.

"RESOLVED, That a copy of these resolutions be presented to the family of the deceased companion and that they be entered upon a memorial page of the Book of Records of this Chapter.

"JAMES A. WILSON,
"LEWIS W. DAY,
"Committee."

Obituary notices appeared in the leading papers of New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, and many other prominent cities of the United States, all paying splendid tribute to the worthy life and splendid accomplishments of Colonel Baldwin, and his loss was keenly felt in army circles, wherein he was ever a leading favorite. He was a member of the Athelstan Club and of St. Thomas' Episcopal church in Battle Creek, and in the comparatively short time of his residence there, though suffering constantly from ill health, he won to himself many friends, stanch and true, who yet mourn him in their hearts, and cherish bright and tender memories of the brave soldier,—the kind and courtly gentleman who knew so well how to win and keep their affections.

On June 3, 1891, Colonel Baldwin was united in marriage with Mrs. Lucy F. Hamilton at San Francisco, California. Mrs. Baldwin is a daughter of George W. Prescott of that city, and she was born and reared there, her advanced education being received chiefly in the east. Her father was a prominent wholesale lumber merchant of San Francisco, well known and popular there in his day, but he passed away many years ago. Mrs. Baldwin's mother resides with her in her home in Battle Creek, where the family has made its home since 1902. Two sons were born to Colonel and Mrs. Baldwin. Geoffrey Prescott was graduated from the Battle Creek high school in 1911 and is now a cadet in the United States Military Academy. The younger son, John Braithwaite, is now a junior in the high school in this city. Both sons were born at Madison Barracks, New York.

Mrs. Baldwin is a member of the Country Club of Battle Creek, and is Regent of the Battle Creek Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The family residence is maintained at 37 Chestnut street.

GEORGE U. MCCARTY is mayor of the city of Albion and foreman of the Gale Manufacturing Company. Since his election to the mayoralty in 1912 he has gone far towards demonstrating his capability as a public official, and the city has every reason to congratulate itself upon its choice of a chief executive.

A native son of Michigan, Mr. McCarty was born in Allegan county, on March 31, 1868. His parents were Charles E. and Katherine McCarty, early settlers of Allegan county, where the father was occupied

Hosted by Google

in farming pursuits. He died there in 1908 and his widow, who still survives him, makes her home in Albion.

George U. McCarty was educated in the public and high schools in Allegan county, Michigan. On leaving school he began to make his own way, and was for a time variously employed in divers lines of business. In 1879 he entered the employ of the Pere Marquette Railroad in their machine shops, and he remained with them for five years, learning the trade of a machinist from the bottom up. On leaving the Michigan Central shops he secured employment with the Gale Manufacturing Company, and he was promoted step by step in their shops until he was accorded the position of foreman of the shops in 1902. He continued in that capacity, giving excellent service to his employers, but in the meantime he became interested in local politics to some extent, and in 1909 he was elected alderman of the Fourth ward, serving three years. In 1912 his political popularity had grown so that he was elected to the office of mayor of Albion, and he resigned his office as alderman to assume the duties of the greater position of mayor. His administration already has witnessed several important improvements in the civic life with others just beginning and still others in contemplation. Mr. McCarty still retains his position as foreman of the Gale works, but devotes his evenings and Saturday afternoons to the duties of his office, and is able to keep matters well in hand, as a result of his close attention to business.

In 1888, Mr. McCarty was united in marriage with Miss Cecelia Fitch, daughter of Norman Fitch, an old resident of Allegan, Michigan. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. McCarty;—Irene, the eldest, is the wife of Jay Ganka; she was a graduate of Albion College and for a number of years was employed as a stenographer with the Gale Manufacturing Company; Blanche is a graduate of the Albion high school, and with her brother, Norman I., the only son of the parents, remains at home.

Mr. McCarty is a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge No. 60 and of Encampment No. 63, Knights of Pythias. He is a Republican, and takes an active and intelligent interest in county and state politics. He and his family attend the Methodist Episcopal church. The family home is maintained at No. 515 West Cass street, where they own a comfortable and substantial residence.

BERTRAM COLBERT KIRKLAND. Associated with one of the leading industries of Battle Creek, and contributing materially to its importance in the business world, Bertram Colbert Kirkland, factory manager of the Kellogg Food Company, takes a foremost position among the progressive, enterprising young business men of the city, where he has resided since his ninth year. Mr. Kirkland was born in Burlington township, Calhoun county, Michigan, January 6, 1883, son of Samuel and Carrie E. (Smallwood) Kirkland.

Thomas Kirkland, the paternal grandfather of Bertram C., was born in Derbyshire, England, in 1825, and when about twelve years of age, came to the United States, residing in Canastota, Madison county, New York, prior to coming to Michigan. In 1863 he purchased one-quarter of a section of land in Newton township, Calhoun county, and was there engaged in farming until his death, which was caused by a fall. He is buried in Burlington township cemetery. His wife, Naomi (Colbert) Kirkland, was born in Boughton, Huntingshire, England, in 1835, a daughter of Charles and Sarah (Wood) Colbert. Samuel Kirkland was born in Marengo township, Calhoun county, May 22, 1861, and is a bridge builder by trade, his calling necessarily taking him to various parts of the country. He was married in Burlington township, March

Hosted by Google

1, 1882, to Carrie E. Smallwood, who was born near Adrian, Michigan, August 28, 1862, daughter of Thomas and Anna (Wyrill) Smallwood. The latter was born in 1840, in England, and came to the United States with her father, two brothers and one sister (the mother died two years previous to their coming to the United States), when she was eleven years of age, the family settling in Tecumseh, Michigan. Thomas Smallwood was born on a farm in Middlethorpe, near York, in Yorkshire, England, and when about twenty years of age, against the wishes of his parents, made his way to the United States, settling first near Tecumseh, Michigan. His father was twice married, having six children by each wife, and Thomas was born to the second union. He finally took residence near Adrian, from whence he enlisted for service in the Civil War, becoming a veterinary surgeon in the Eighth Regiment, Michigan Cavalry, with the rank of sergeant, and served with that organization until he contracted typhoid fever, in camp, and died in Hospital Tent No. 3, at Kingston, Tennessee, being buried in National Cemetery at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Samuel and Carrie E. (Smallwood) Kirkland had three children: Bertram Colbert; Alto V., born in Newton township, April 9, 1886, and now the wife of William T. Drever, musical director at the Sanitarium; and Melbourne J., born in Newton township, October 19, 1887, and now a superintendent of manual training and at present of that department in the public schools of Big Rapids, Michigan. The mother of these children still survives and makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Drever, in this city.

The primary education of Bertram C. Kirkland was secured in the district schools of Burlington and Newton townships, and when he was nine years of age the family moved to Battle Creek, where he attended the public schools up to the tenth grade. His early boyhood was spent in one of the old time log houses of Burlington township, which had been erected by Hiram French, an early pioneer settler of that section. When he was fifteen years of age, Mr. Kirkland began to learn the trade of druggist, serving an apprenticeship of four years in the store of M. H. Goodale & Company, on the present site of the Baker Drug Company, on West Main street. Later the store was sold to F. L. McClintic, after the Goodales moved it to the Post Tavern Corner, and Mr. Kirkland continued with Mr. McClintic four years, taking a course in a private school of pharmacy and passing his examination while there. He is now registered as a pharmacist in five states, viz.: Michigan, Illinois, Oregon, Texas and the District of Columbia. In a class of one hundred and one pupils, only thirty-one passed the examination of the State Board of Michigan, and after successfully passing this examination, Mr. Kirkland took a leave of absence from Mr. McClintic and went abroad, visiting England, Holland, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and France. On his return, he became manager of the pharmacy of Charles Young, located on North Jefferson street, and after Mr. Young's death continued for two months with his successors, the Dawson Brothers, who later sold out to the Baker Drug Company. Mr. Kirkland resigned from Dawson Brothers and accepted a position in the pharmacy in the main building of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, where he had charge of the department for three years, resigning his position to accept the factory managership of the Kellogg Food Company, in which capacity he has continued to act to the present time. He is admirably fitted to discharge the duties of his present position, and is recognized as a business man of much more than ordinary ability, possessing in the fullest degree the confidence and esteem of his business associates. He has dealt some in real estate, and among other holdings has his modern residence at No. 145 Oaklawn avenue, which he erected.

Hosted by Google

In political matters he is a staunch Republican. He was reared in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is an enthusiastic motorist and a member of the Battle Creek Automobile Club, and Chamber of Commerce.

On October 14, 1908, Mr. Kirkland was united in marriage at the home of Dr. J. H. Kellogg, to Harriett Eleanor Kellogg, adopted daughter of Dr. J. H. Kellogg. She was born at East Cowes, Isle of Wight, England, daughter of Capt. Daniel and Fanny (White) Sargent, who had eleven other children, and who still reside in England, Capt. Sargent being the owner of several boats. Mrs. Kirkland was brought to the United States when seven years of age with her sister, Mrs. Dr. Case, of Battle Creek, by Dr. Kellogg. Mrs. Kirkland was educated both by private tutor and in the old Battle Creek College, and subsequently graduated from the Philadelphia Training School for Kindergartners, and for two years had charge of the Sanitarium Kindergarten. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kirkland: Elizabeth Eleanor and Helena Louise, both at home.

HON. ADRIAN F. COOPER ranks among the leading attorneys of Albion, of which city he has been a resident since 1891. From the status of the farmer boy he has risen gradually from place to place until he is now recognized for one of the leading lawyers of the county, and he has filled numerous important offices in the public life of the city and county.

Adrian F. Cooper was born in Ontario, Canada, in January, 1873. He is the son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Amos) Cooper, the father being a native Canadian of Irish descent and the mother a Canadian of English descent. Joseph Cooper was a farmer by occupation, and to that calling he devoted many of the best years of his life. He came to Albion, Michigan, in 1891, and there died in April, 1905, while his widow passed away in this city in 1911. Their son passed his boyhood on the farm and for a time attended the district school. He later attended the public school and thereafter entered the preparatory department of Albion College, where he pursued his studies for five years, and was graduated from that institution in 1896. He began his independent life as a teacher and going to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, was engaged as a teacher at the little towns of Dollar Bay and Chassell in Houghton county for a space of four years. He then returned to Albion and began to read law under the direction of D. M. Weeks. In 1900 the young man went to Chicago and became established in the office of Kremer & Greenfield, where he was engaged for one year. Returning to Albion once more, he was admitted to the bar of the state of Michigan on May 10, 1901, and thereupon engaged in the practice of his profession. He later went to Jackson, Michigan, but his stay there was a brief one, and he was soon back in Albion, where he formed a copartnership with his former tutor in the law, Mr. Weeks. The firm was known as Weeks & Cooper, and they have since continued to be connected in that early association, both of the principals to the firm being popular and prominent in the profession and with their large and representative clientele.

Mr. Cooper has held numerous offices of importance in Calhoun county, his first public service being represented by his election to the office of circuit court commissioner, in which he served for four years. In 1903 he was elected city clerk and served two terms in that capacity. In 1909 he was elected mayor of the city of Albion, and he held this important office for two terms, being elected on the Republican ticket, of which party he is a staunch adherent. He has served five terms as

Hosted by Google

city attorney of Albion, and also has twice filled the office of chairman of the Republican County Committee. He is, in a civic way, equally prominent and has served as secretary and treasurer of the Albion Business Men's Association. He is a member of the Athletic Board of Albion College, and has served as president and director of the Alumni Association of that institution. In a fraternal way, Mr. Cooper is associated with the Masonic fraternity, and is a member of Murat Lodge No. 14, A. F. & A. M., Albion Chapter No. 32, R. A. M., also of the Council of Albion, No. 57, and of the Order of the Eastern Star.

In October, 1906, Mr. Cooper married Miss Emma Worden, of Reading, Hillsdale county, Michigan, where her father was prominently engaged in the hardware business. Her parents were George and Ella L. (Chester) Worden. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper have two children, Helen Marie and Donald W., the latter born September 16, 1912. The family attend the Methodist Episcopal church, and their residence is maintained at No. 706 South Superior street. In addition to his home place, Mr. Cooper is the owner of two or three representative dwellings and other city property of considerable value, which he rents.

Mr. Cooper has two brothers living,—W. A. Cooper, a farmer of Jackson county, Michigan, and Oscar H. Cooper, who is engaged in the transfer business in Albion.

LEWIS S. HODGES, M. D., has been engaged in the practice of his profession at Tekonsha, Michigan, the past eight years and is ranked with the leading citizens of this community. Some personal mention of him is therefor of interest in this connection, and a *resumé* of his life and parentage is as follows:

Lewis S. Hodges was born in Cayuga county, Ohio, November 20, 1874, son of Henry L. and Lucy (Campbell) Hodges, natives of Jefferson county, New York. Henry L. Hodges was born in June, 1848, and died in 1905; his wife, born in 1848, died in 1882. In 1865 he moved to Ohio, where he lived until he came to Michigan and settled in Oceana county. He was a farmer all his life. In Ohio he cultivated rented land, and after coming to Michigan he bought one hundred twenty acres, a hundred acres of which he cleared. He was in the Union Army during the Civil war, and as a member of Company C, Thirteenth Light Artillery, was a participant in the seven-days fight at Antietam and the engagements at Cold Harbor, and Gettysburg. On one occasion he was wounded, receiving a ball that he carried through life. Politically, he was a Republican; religiously, a Methodist.

Dr. Hodges' grandparents, Stephen and Mary (Dodge) Hodges, were born and spent the greater part of their lives in New York State. About 1885 they came to Michigan, but subsequently went back to New York and there died. Grandfather Campbell, the father of Doctor Hodges' mother, was also a native of New York, and lived and died in the "Empire State." While a soldier in the War of 1812, he swam the St. Lawrence river to escape the British, and while he evaded the enemy he contracted a cold from the effects of which he died.

In the family of Henry L. and Lucy (Campbell) Hodges, were twelve children, of whom Lewis S. was the seventh son and ninth child.

Lewis S. Hodges was seven years old at the time his parents moved to Michigan, and here he was reared and educated. He worked his way through Ferris Institute, Big Rapids, and the State University. The latter institution he entered in 1900. Here he spent four years, preparing himself for his life work. Having graduated in 1904, and received his degree of M. D., he came that same year to Tekonsha, where he entered upon the practice of his profession. Success attended his ef-

Hosted by Google

forts from the beginning, and he soon established himself in a growing practice.

In 1908 Doctor Hodges and Miss Clare E. Osborne were united in marriage, and they have two children: Richard C. and Harriet E. Mrs. Hodges is a daughter of Barton R. and Elizabeth (Barnes) Osborne, both natives of Michigan. Her parents now reside on a farm near Tekonsha. She was reared a Baptist, her father and mother both being identified with the church, and she also is a member.

Doctor Hodges maintains fraternal relation with the Modern Woodmen of America and the A. F. & A. M., and he has membership in both the County and the American Medical Associations. Politically, he harmonizes with the Republican party.

JOHN F. BYRNE. The career of John F. Byrne, vice-president of the Michigan Carton Company, of Battle Creek, illustrates most forcibly the possibilities that are open to the young men who possess sterling business qualifications. It proves that neither wealth nor social position, nor the assistance of influential friends at the outset of his career, are at all necessary to place a young man upon the road to success. It also proves that ambitious perseverance, steadfastness of purpose and indefatigable industry, combined with sound business principles, will be rewarded, and that true success follows individual efforts only. John F. Byrne was born September 30, 1871, in New Haven, Connecticut, and is a son of Henry and Joanna (Halpin) Byrne, natives of Ireland, both of whom came to the United States with relatives when young. They were married in New Haven, Connecticut, where the father followed the trade of silver plater during the days when that work was done by hand, but as he died when John F. Byrne was about four years of age, the latter does not remember much about him. There were two sons and a daughter in the family, all of whom are living: John F.; Mrs. J. G. Felsburg, of New Haven, Connecticut; and Harry E., a resident of Memphis, Tennessee. Mrs. Byrne still survives her husband and makes her home in Battle Creek with her son.

The necessity for him to help in the support of the family precluded any possibility of Mr. Byrne's securing exceptional educational advantages in his youth, but by attending night school and doing much home study he became possessed of much general information. In 1888 he began his business career at New Haven as a press feeder for Munson & Company, proprietors of a folding paper box business, a concern with which he was connected three years, and then entered the employ of Cornell & Shelton Company, of Shelton, Connecticut, in the same business, as a department foreman. Three years later he went to Brooklyn, New York, and worked for one year for Robert Gair, after which he was for six years identified with the National Folding Paper Box Company, of New Haven, Connecticut. On May 20, 1900, Mr. Byrne came to Battle Creek and started the manufacturing end of the Battle Creek Paper Box Company for C. W. Post, acting as superintendent of that plant, and continuing with Mr. Post until July 31, 1905, at which time he left his employ to take charge in the same capacity of the Record Publishing and Carton Company. In 1907, the Michigan Carton Company was formed and absorbed the Record Publishing and Carton Company, and Mr. Byrne joined the new company with W. I. Fell to take charge of the manufacturing end of the institution. In 1908 he was elected a director and vice-president of the company, in which capacities he has since acted, and is also superintendent of the plant, which is now one of Battle Creek's largest manufacturing institutions, a large paper mill having been added to the plant's equipment recently.

Hosted by Google

The other officers of the company are: William H. Mason, president, and W. I. Fell, secretary and treasurer. The company manufactures folding paper boxes for food products, proprietary medicines and other package goods, its products including paper shipping containers, grouped cartons for window displays and cardboard signs. Mr. Byrne is a hustling, progressive business man, and is a representative of a class to whom, more than any other, is due the continued growth and prosperity of the thriving city of Battle Creek.

Mr. Byrne has interested himself in fraternal matters, being past eminent commander of Commandery No. 33, Battle Creek Knights Templar, and belongs to Battle Creek Lodge No. 12, F. & A. M., and to the Shrine at Grand Rapids. He is also prominent in the B. P. O. E., belonging to Battle Creek Lodge No. 131, and to the Athelstan Club. In political matters he is a Republican, but has found his business interests too engrossing to allow of activities in the public arena.

On April 10, 1896, Mr. Byrne was married at New Haven, Connecticut, to Miss Elizabeth Heeran, of New Haven, daughter of Patrick and Margaret Heeran. Two children have been born to this union: Helen M., who was born in New Haven, and is now attending the Battle Creek high school; and Harry J., also born in New Haven, and now attending the departmental grades. Mr. and Mrs. Byrne attend St. Thomas Episcopal church, although they are not members thereof. The modern family home is situated at No. 138 Chestnut street.

LESLIE TALMAGE has gained distinctive success as a farmer and sheep-raiser on his fine estate of one hundred and one acres in Newton township, Calhoun county, Michigan. He is a man of sterling integrity of character and by reason of his straightforward, honorable business methods he has won the high regard of all with whom he has had dealings.

A native of Michigan, Leslie Talmage was born in Newton township, Calhoun county, December 1, 1849, and he is a son of Alva P. Talmage, whose birth occurred in the state of Massachusetts in 1821. In early life the father removed to New York state, where, as a boy, he was canal boat driver on the Erie canal. He married, at the age of twenty-one years, Caroline Knight, a native of Connecticut, whence she had accompanied her parents to Michigan at the age of thirteen years. She is a daughter of Benjamin and Sarah C. (Osborne) Knight and was a cousin of her husband. Alva P. Talmage was a son of Harvey and Ruth (Knight) Talmage. He came to Michigan at the age of nineteen years and was married, two years later, in Newton township, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres, later purchasing another estate of one hundred and thirty acres. Mr. Talmage was summoned to the life eternal in 1897, at the age of seventy-five years, and his cherished and devoted wife, who still survives him, makes her home on the old farmstead. Mr. and Mrs. Talmage became the parents of twelve children—eight boys and four girls,—as follows: Harvey (deceased); Sarah, who became the wife of Edward Mack, is likewise deceased; Leslie is the immediate subject of this review; Iola Ruth is the wife of Edward Bingham and resides in township Burlington; Albert Howard is deceased; Albert Thomas is engaged in the mason business at Battle Creek; Emeline died in infancy; Eugene is a resident of Newton township; Osee resides at Bedford; Maria is Mrs. Henry Allwardt; Floyd lives at South Bend, Indiana; Cyrenus, deceased. Alva P. Talmage was a Democrat in politics and he served as town clerk for several terms and also as township treasurer. He was a member of Home Grange No. 129.

The early life of Leslie Talmage was spent at home on the farm in Newton township and his preliminary educational training consisted of

Hosted by Google

such advantages as were afforded in the district schools. At the age of twenty-two years, in 1871, he purchased a farm of eighty acres, thus forming the nucleus of his present estate. He helped erect a log cabin on his farm and in the following year was married, 1873. With the passage of time he has improved his farm and it is now recognized as one of the most attractive rural estates in Calhoun county. In addition to diversified farming he is an extensive breeder of Black Top Delaney sheep, all of his flock being registered, and he likewise breeds Poland China hogs. Mr. Talmage takes special pride in his sheep and he has had wonderfully good luck with them.

In politics Mr. Talmage is a Democrat, and though not formally connected with any religious denomination he favors churches and is fully cognizant of the amount of good accomplished by them.

Mr. Talmage married Miss Catherine Elizabeth Ford, a native of Newton, Michigan, and a daughter of George and Martha (Smith) Ford, the former of whom was born in Ireland, and the latter in Erie county, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Talmage have two sons,—Obi Harvey, whose birth occurred in 1875, is living in LeRoy township, Calhoun county; O. C., whose birth occurred in 1880, is engaged in farming operations on an estate which lies in Newton and LeRoy townships.

RICHARD J. MILLER. About forty-five years of a long and active career has been spent by Mr. Miller in Battle Creek. During his early life he vigorously followed his trade of painter, and still does a large amount of contract work in that line, but he is now best known through his establishment at 32 South Jefferson avenue as dealer in wall paper, window shades, paints, oils and glass. He has a large business based upon his proved reliability to two generations of Battle Creek citizens.

Richard J. Miller, who represents one of the New England families, was born in Ferrisburg, Vermont, on Monday January 21, 1839. His birthplace was on the shores of Lake Champlain, opposite Essex lighthouse and the famous old Split Rock. His parents were Jeremiah and Catherine (Teal) Miller, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of Whitehall, New York, and both of them died at the old homestead at Ferrisburg. The father was a carpenter and followed that vocation all his life. As a ship carpenter he built many canal and steam boats, but was also a builder of houses and barns. He and his brother had a contract for removing the cedar-post fence about the old arsenal grounds in Vergennes, Vermont. The old posts had been in the ground forty years, and were still sound. There were two sons and two daughters in the family, Richard J., being the youngest and the only survivor, and he is likewise the only representative of the family to come to Michigan.

During the early years spent in the old Green Mountain state he attended district school and completed his education in the academy at Vergennes. From an early age he began his practical career, and has always been noted for his enterprise and bustling activity. At the age of fifteen he secured a school to teach, and spent three winters as the master of a district school in Vermont. During the summer intervals he was engaged in learning and working at the painter's trade, and in this way he was a self-supporting man by the time he had attained his eighteenth year.

Mr. Miller lived in the east until he was twenty-nine, and in 1868 came west and made his permanent home in Battle Creek. At the time of his removal the price of white lead, which is such an important element in his working materials, was sixteen dollars a hundred pounds. Nearly for a century Mr. Miller has been known in Battle Creek as the

Hosted by Google

proprietor of a reliable painting business, and with a number of men in his employ he has performed hundreds of contracts during this period. He has also for many years kept a paint store, his first location being on Jackson street, but he has been in his present quarters since Philander Barnes erected the building. Since 1897 he has included wall paper and other similar commodities in his stock.

Mr. Miller's home is outside the city limits in Battle Creek township on an attractive little fruit farm of seventeen acres, the management of this estate having been a great delight to his later years. In politics he is not a formal party man, but gives his support to the candidate he considers best fitted for office. At the present time his religious affiliation is with the World's Hope Institution, a body among whose cardinal principle is an affirmation that there is no eternal hell. For many years he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, later of the Free Methodist, but has ceased his connection with either, though he is an attendant at the Free Methodist church. Morally Mr. Miller has kept his mind and body free from attractive influences that weaken so many men, and he is a splendid specimen of a vigorous young age. He has never used tobacco in any form, nor any of the narcotic liquors. Deep breathing and outdoor exercise have been his stimulants, and through all his years he has never failed in eating three good meals a day and in sleeping to refreshment every night. He has made a wise choice of the good things in life, and his example is a worthy one to be followed.

Mr. Miller was married in Westport, New York, before the war to Miss Sarah Ellen Allen, a daughter of Joseph Allen and a direct descendant of Ethan Allan, the Revolutionary hero. Mrs. Miller was also born at Ferrisburg, the Allen and Miller families being neighbors and friends, and the children grew up together, and attended the same school. Their romance was so well known that the newspapers of the old home town had once or twice announced their marriage, and it was for this reason that the young couple, after finally settling the date, chose to be wedded in New York. Mrs. Miller's father was by profession a government surveyor. In this work he had come west and had surveyed in the vicinity of Battle Creek before the arrival of white men, when the Indian trails were the only path through the wilderness, and he slept every night on the ground. He was an early resident of Battle Creek, where he was engaged in blacksmithing for a time, and was also owner of considerable property in this vicinity.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Miller, and two sons and two daughters are still living, namely: Jerry A. and Joseph R., both of Battle Creek; Katie was a graduate nurse in Grand Rapids and is now the wife of H. K. Knowlton, cashier of the Cadillac State Bank at Cadillac; Charlotte is the wife of S. B. Aiken, and they reside on a half-acre site given them from his farm by Mr. Miller.

MYRON J. BRYANT, who has for a lifetime resided on the soil which is his present farm, is not only an efficient and up-to-date farmer, but is the son of an able agriculturist and the grandson of a Michigan pioneer. His father, James Bryant, was but sixteen years of age when he came with his parents, in about the year 1836, to this state, where they located at Hickory Corner, Barry county, Michigan. He was then slight of build as well as young in years and before he was able to unyoke his own oxen was entrusted with the responsibility of three times driving an ox-team from Hickory Corners to Detroit for the purpose of buying flour. His hauling he was able to accomplish without difficulty and the kind hearts of the strangers he met made it easy for him to find assistance in the yoking and unyoking of his animals. In 1884 he began life for

Hosted by Google

himself, buying first an eighty-acre farm in Convis township. This he cleared and plowed, after which he erected the needed buildings. The beautiful farm which he constructed and the accessory buildings erected with such thoughtful care still stand and are counted among the best in that locality. He later doubled his property and lived on his well-improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres until his death in 1893. James Bryant had married Miss Anne Atmore a native of Norfolk, England and a woman of unusual intelligence. Her son, who remembers his father's interesting stories of having helped George Rogers and George Angell to chop and haul timber from what is now Main street of Battle Creek, also recalls his mother's accounts of the primitive conditions during her teaching experience in Penfield township when she was a young lady. Before her marriage she was accustomed to making twice at each weekend a trip on foot between her home and the location of her school. Her ability in the pedagogical line was also called in requisition after her marriage. She was married in 1844, at the age of twenty-three, to James Bryant, who was then twenty-six. Of their nine children Myron Bryant, the special subject of this brief biography, was the fifth.

His birth occurred in 1858, on the farm which he now owns. His home has always been the center of his life interests. Here he grew up and here he lived while securing his education, which was that of the rural schools. As his fater's close companion, he early received the training necessary to make his chosen vocation a successful one. After the death of his father, Myron Bryant bought out the other heirs in order that he might permanently occupy the family homestead, to the development of which he has given so much attention.

Mrs. Myron Bryant was formerly Miss Jean Chisholm, a daughter of Samuel Chisholm, a fine old Scotchman who came to Calhoun county during the later years of his life and who died in 1900. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Bryant took place March 15, 1877. They are the parents of four sons, who are named and located as follows: Harry, who lives at Battle Creek, is a fireman at Station No. 3 of that city's system; James, who is a successful farmer and who is a resident of Marshall township. Joseph, who is still at the home of his parents; and John, who also lives at the old homestead.

Myron Bryant is a leader among his friends and associates in matters of political import. He is a Republican of logical views with a good deal of enthusiasm in expressing them. He is, however, no aspirant for office, and accepts such offices as his acquaintances force upon him as serious responsibilities rather than as empty honors. His church interests are those of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the local congregation of which he is capably active as a trustee. Otherwise his chief activities are those of his farm, which comprises in its general farming and dairy specialties an extensive field for the energies of a progressive farmer such as Mr. Bryant is acknowledged to be.

MAURICE SNOW GIBBS, M. D. It is a very rare occurence for a young medical practitioner to meet with immediate success in his chosen profession, and within the short space of something over one year's time to build up a large and lucrative practice, but such has been the experience of Dr. Maurice Snow Gibbs, of Eckford, whose training, ability and natural inclination so fitted him for his vocation that he immediately won the confidence and patronage of the people of his selected field of endeavor and as a consequence made a place for himself among the rising young physicians and surgeons of his community. Dr. Gibbs was born in the town of Concord, Jackson county, Michigan, January 16, 1888, and is a son of Rev. William L. and Phoebe (Snow) Gibbs, natives of Hamilton

Hosted by Google

county, Ohio, where the former was born March 6, 1839, and the latter ten years later. Dr. Gibbs was the only child of his parents, but they had two adopted children, William Cowden and Helen, the latter the wife of Floyd Butler. Rev. William L. Gibbs was educated in the Ohio public schools, and Lombard (Illinois) College, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts, subsequently taking his theological course in Lawrence University, Canton, New York. During the same year he was ordained and entered the Universalist ministry. He has had various charges throughout Michigan, having been pastor of the churches at Manchester, Marshall, Liberty, Horton and Concord, and still resides at the last-named place. In addition to his clerical work, he has won a wide reputation as a temperance worker. In his political views he is independent, depending on his own judgment to advise him who is the best man for the office at stake, and fraternally he is connected with the Masons, in which he has attained the Knights Templar degree, the Maccabees and the Odd Fellows.

Dr. Maurice S. Gibbs received his primary education in the public and high schools of Concord, following which he attended Dean Academy, at Franklin, Massachusetts, and the medical department of Boston University. He then spent three years at the Detroit Homeopathic College, from which he was graduated in 1911 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine, and at once settled in practice at Eckford. From the very first he has enjoyed a practice, which has shown a steady and rapid increase, and at the present time is building a large office for the care of patients wishing for minor operations. He is a close and careful student, a steady-handed surgeon, and keeps himself posted on the latest discoveries in his profession by subscription to the leading medical journals. He takes special interest in the work of the various organizations, belonging to the Calhoun County Medical Society and the State Homeopathic Medical Society, and belongs also to the Maccabees, the Gleaners and the Alpha Sigma medical fraternity. At the present time he is acting in the capacity of health officer of Eckford township. He and Mrs. Gibbs are faithful members of the Universalist church, and in his political belief he is a Republican.

Dr. Gibbs was married in 1909 to Miss Harriet Jones, daughter of Clifton Jones, a prominent farmer of Concord, and one daughter, Helen has been born to this union.

JAMES W. LANGRELL. Among the prosperous farmers of Calhoun county, Michigan, is James W. Langrell, who has lived on his present farm of one hundred sixty acres near Tekonsha, since 1890. He started out a poor young man, and has worked his way up to a position in life where he enjoys the fruits of his early years of toil. His farm is well cultivated, and well stocked with Durham cattle, Poland China hogs and Shropshire sheep; and the constant and careful attention here given to the various details of the farming operations at once indicate the character of the owner.

Mr. Langrell is a native of the State of Delaware, and was born July 1, 1855, son of James and Anna (Kinnaman) Langrell, both natives of that state, as also were his grandparents—William and Sarah (Scott) Langrell and Samuel and Hannah (Burbank) Kinnaman. Both paternal and maternal grandparents lived and died in Delaware, Grandfather William Langrell being ninety-seven years of age at the time of his death. He was engaged in agricultural pursuits as have been many of his descendants. James Langrell was born in 1827 and died January 4, 1883, and his wife, born in 1829, died in 1891. They were married in 1846. In 1856 they moved to Maryland, where he was engaged

Hosted by Google

in farming the rest of his life. He was, politically, a Democrat, and, religiously, he and his wife were worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which faith they reared their family. Of their nine children, eight are living, James W. being the fifth in order of birth.

At the time the Langrell family moved to Maryland in 1856, James W. was a babe in arms. He grew up on a farm, early becoming familiar with all kinds of farm work as carried on in the east. At the age of twenty-three years he came west to Michigan, and here he has since resided.

December 21, 1882, Mr. Langrell married Miss Ella L. Aldrich, daughter of Charles and Louisa (Failing) Aldrich. Charles Aldrich, a New Yorker, had moved to Michigan at an early day and taken claim to a section of government land, which he developed into a fine farm on which he spent the rest of his life and died. He was a successful and influential man; cast his franchise with the Republican party, and worshiped with the Presbyterian church, of which he was a worthy member. Mr. and Mrs. Langrell have three children: Ivan W., Anna L. and Margaret A., all at home. The family are identified with the Methodist Episcopal church, and his political loyalty Mr. Langrell gives to the same party his father supported—the Democratic party.

W. R. SKELLENGER, M. T. As a specialist in the broad field of therapy, Dr. Skellenger, Mechano-Therapist, has built up a large private practice in Battle Creek and to many has brought the means of better health and capacity for the daily responsibilities of life. The essence of his work as a specialist is stated in the brief line, "Permanent health through perfect circulation," and the science of mechano-therapy is based on the well known principles that the functions of the human body and life itself depend for efficiency on the proper circulation of the stream of blood through all parts. Instead of restoring circulation by haphazard exercise or other means commonly employed, mechano-therapy applies artificial exercise by graduated and scientific manipulation of all portions of the body.

Dr. Skellenger was born in Otisco township, Ionia county, Michigan, June 2, 1872, was reared on the home farm there, attending the district schools, and was graduated from the Belding high school with the class of 1890. For his first regular occupation he chose the trade of barber, and was one of the popular men of the trade in Battle Creek for thirteen years, and still owns a financial interest in a shop in this city. From this his interest turned to a broader sphere of usefulness, and he took up his studies with the American College of Mechano-Therapy at Chicago, where he was graduated with the degree of M. T., on December 9, 1908. Since beginning his practice he has gained, through his individual skill and studious and careful application of the principles of his specialty, a foremost position among the practitioners in his line, and has a large patronage. He has treated people from all over the world, and there are hundreds who might testify to the benefits received from his practice. His offices are now in the Arcade building.

During many years of residence in Battle Creek, Dr. Skellenger has won a host of friends, and is one of the popular men of his city. In politics he inclines to the principles of Socialism. His party placed his name without his solicitation on the city ticket for alderman of the first ward, and he made a very strong campaign, though defeated by the older party candidates. He is past grand of the Odd Fellows lodge of Battle Creek and is a member of Calhoun Tent No. 54, K. O. T. M. M.

Hosted by Google

Dr. Skellenger's home is at 33 Tompkins street. He was married at Kalamazoo, Michigan, on October 17, 1891, to Miss Laura Musser, and they are the parents of four children, namely: Kenneth A., who was born at Kalamazoo; Lewis E., born in Ionia county; W. Brian and Martha, born in Battle Creek, and they are all attending the Battle Creek schools.

FRANK A. WARREN, M. D., the efficient physician, whose professional services are so often in requisition in Tekonsha and its vicinity, is the descendant of a family of New England stock. His father was Lyman Warren of Vermont and his mother (who was Lyman Warren's second wife) was Betsy Brown Warren, the daughter of George Brown of New York. Frank A. Warren was the only child of this family. His birth occurred on May 10, 1845, in Jackson county, Michigan. His general education was secured in the public schools of Albion and later in those of Dewitt public school in Clinton county.

After completing this preparatory development, Frank Warren spent some time in a variety of temporary and experimental employments and then entered Cleveland Medical College. The latter part of his course, however, he pursued in the Detroit Homeopathic Medical College, from which he received his physician's diploma in 1875.

Dr. Warren was united in marriage to Miss Maria A. Dake, in 1872. The first Mrs. Warren was born in New York and died in Tekonsha in 1895. The children born of this union were five, four of whom have grown to maturity and into their own vocations. Grace E. is Mrs. J. A. Harsh of Idaho; Hattie A. is a teacher in the public schools of Buffalo, New York; Ada died at the age of four; Jennie B. is an attorney at Hoquiam, Washington; Mrs. Charles Smith, whose husband, Howard D., is a bank cashier at Deary, Idaho.

In July of 1897 Dr. Warren was married to Miss Edith A. Batts, a daughter of William S. Batts of Petoskey, formerly a farmer but now deceased. To this latter union one daughter has been born, who was named Hazel.

Dr. Warren is noted for his serious attention to the arduous duties of his profession, to which he gives his entire time and energies. He has never allowed either social or political affairs to interfere with his business of healing the sick and of saving life. He keeps abreast of the times in the science of which he is such a worthy exponent, being a wide reader on medical subjects and a member of the State Medical Society. July 2nd, 1912, Dr. Warren removed from Tekonsha to Smyrna, Ionia county, Michigan, where he has charge of a large sanitarium and he with his wife Edith A. Warren, are proprietors and manufacturers of a goitre and catarrh remedy with which they are having remarkable success.

CARL A. COLBURN, M. D. The medical profession of Calhoun county is represented by some of the most skilled and learned men of this calling to be found in the state. They have devoted themselves, their time, energy and lives to the preservation of public health, and the alleviation of human ills. Theirs is no easy task, nor is it always remunerated as befits their high standing and undoubted great work, and yet they cheerfully accept the disadvantages, make the countless sacrifices asked of them, content to feel secure in well doing. Their training is exceptionally rigid, and embraces not only an ordinary college course, but months in a hospital as well, so that when they begin their practice they are really better fitted for their work than the old-time physician was after a lifetime of endeavor. One of the representative physicians of Cal-

Hosted by Google

houn county, whose sympathy as well as knowledge has made him beloved among his patients, is Carl A. Colburn, M. D., whose field of practice is the city of Homer. Dr. Colburn was born in Washington county, Vermont, February 28, 1840, and is a son of Alanson and Monicy (Dodge) Colburn.

William Colburn, the paternal grandfather of Dr. Colburn, was a native of New Hampshire, where he spent his entire life. He reared a family of nine children, each of whom lived to be more than eighty years of age. Alanson Colburn was born in Lyme, New Hampshire, February 22, 1809, and in 1820 removed to Vermont, where he spent his life until 1867. At that time he removed to Cambria, Michigan, and subsequently went to the town of Butler, where his death occurred in 1890, he having been a carpenter in early life and subsequently turning his attention to farming and becoming the owner of seventy-five acres of land. In politics he was a Republican. He and his wife, who was born in Washington county, Vermont, October 16, 1813, were members of the Hard Shell Baptist church and the parents of two children: Arthur T., born in 1836, and now deceased; and Carl A. The maternal grandfather, Nathaniel Dodge, spent his whole life in his native Vermont.

Carl A. Colburn received his early education in the schools of Vermont, and there attended the academy at Morrisville. During five years he studied medicine, but during the Civil war turned his attention to photography, and he sent many a picture of wives and sweethearts and others to soldiers of Vermont, in the army to help cheer them up. At close of war he entered the office of Dr. A. M. Ruggles, of East Hardwick, Vermont, and in 1866 began practice there, but in 1867 came to Michigan. At that time the field of medicine was not so prolific as at present, and Dr. Colburn found it necessary to engage in various other occupations, for some years being a jack-of-all-trades, working at painting, wall paper hanging and farming, and in fact turning his hand to whatever honorable work presented itself. During all this time, however, his practice had been steadily growing, and in 1878 and 1879 he went to the Cleveland Homeopathic College. On his graduation therefrom, he located in Butler, Michigan, and there continued in practice until 1891, at that time coming to Homer. He has since built up a large and lucrative practice here, and is recognized as one of Calhoun's capable and thoroughly trained physicians and surgeons. He keeps abreast of all the changes in his profession, and is a valued member of the Michigan Homeopathic Medical Society, is a Republican in his political views, and with his wife is a consistent attendant of the Presbyterian church.

Dr. Colburn was married in 1866, to Myra O. Johnson, and to this union there have been born three children: Nellie, who married Clarence A. McDonals, a farmer of Butler, who has served as clerk, treasurer and supervisor of Branch county; Mabel, who married John Fair, of Homer, engaged in the undertaking business; and Clyde, who is deceased, married Lucina A. Hopkins.

WILL E. HALLADAY is a native born resident of Battle Creek, and as such is one of the best known citizens in the city. He is the son of W. Thompson Halladay and Ann Rebecca (Sweeney) Halladay. The father, who was a native of New York state, came to Michigan with his parents, James and Mary Ann (Fiero) Halladay, and James Halladay owned and operated a brick yard in Bedford township for years. His son, W. Thompson, there grew to years of maturity, and eventually married Ann Sweeney, and for a time thereafter he was employed in the brick-

Hosted by Google

yard by his father. Subsequently he became the proprietor of the Battle Creek House, and he later owned and conducted a hotel near the former site of the Michigan Central depot. In later years he took possession of the Crane House, afterwards known as the Commercial House, which he conducted prosperously until the Civil war period. Hotel business became dull at that time, and he lost heavily, and was eventually compelled to withdraw from the business. He took a position in the store of J. E. Halladay, his brother, and later was employed by another brother, A. S. Halladay. He then began in business for himself again and conducted a grocery store on Main street, a business in which he continued until failing health compelled him to retire from active commercial life. Mr. Halladay was a prominent and popular man in Battle Creek, and he was a musician of more than ordinary ability. For many years he was a member of the Halladay Orchestra, in that period a noted organization in southern Michigan. Mr. Halladay played both the violin and the double bass viol. He died on May, 26, 1902, and his wife preceded him, passing away on June 13, 1899. Both are buried in Oak Hill cemetery. They were the parents of eleven children,—eight boys and three girls, of which number four boys and one girl are yet living. They are: Mott S., of Van Horn, Texas; Mrs. C. R. Dye of Battle Creek; Will E., of this review; Claude B. of Laporte, Indiana; and Harold F. of this city.

Will E. Halladay was born on December 4, 1863, and he is the seventh child of his parents. He received his education in this city, after which he spent two years in various parts of Texas, and returning home went to work for the Michigan Central Railroad. He was employed for six years as a cashier with the company, after which he entered the service of the Advance Thresher Company, now the M. Rumley Company. He first became identified with the business in 1890, and he has remained continuously with them during the years that have passed, twenty-two in number, holding the position of traffic manager of the company. Mr. Halladay was a stockholder in the old Advance Thresher Company, and is a stockholder in the newer firm, the M. Rumley Company. He is also a stockholder in the Union Steam Plow Company of this city.

Mr. Halladay is a Republican with regard to his political beliefs, but is not particularly active in such matters. He is a member of Battle Creek Lodge No. 12 A. F. & A. M. and of the Chapter of the R. A. M. He is a member of the Athelstan Club, and is the owner of a summer cottage at Goguac Lake where the family frequently spend the summer months.

Mr. Halladay married Miss Nellie E. Metcalf, the daughter of David H. and Lydia (Muffley) Metcalf, an old and highly respected family of Battle Creek. Mr. Metcalf makes his home with Mr. and Mrs. Halladay, and Mrs. Metcalf passed away in 1910. Mrs. Halladay was born, reared and educated here, and is one of the best known and most popular matrons in the city. Mr. and Mrs. Halladay are the parents of one son,—Ivor R., born here on July 31, 1889. He was graduated from the Battle Creek high school in the class of 1907, and is now in his fifth year in the law department at the University of Michigan. Mrs. Halladay has been secretary of the Women's League of Battle Creek for almost two years, an office which may not be held for longer than a two year period; hence her term of service in that capacity is nearing an end.

Colonel John Watson. Years of honorable and efficient service for a great corporation and varied activity in civic and social life have constituted a very complete and praiseworthy career for Colonel John Watson, one of Battle Creek's best known citizens. He is one of the

Hosted by Google

oldest native sons of southern Michigan, and practically all his life of more than threescore years and ten has been spent in this state.

Colonel Watson is a native of the famous old pioneer town of White Pigeon in St. Joseph county, where he was born on the 10th of October, 1836. His parents, William and Mary Watson, who were born and married in England and thence came to America, settled in southern Michigan about the time the country was opened to actual settlement and purchase of the lands by white people. At the town of White Pigeon which was the seat of the land office and a very important place in early days, the father built and kept the White Pigeon Hotel, a hostelry where hundreds of settlers and pioneer emigrants were entertained in addition to many of the prominent professional and public men of the day. Nine children were born to William and Mary Watson, and seven of them grew up, and two sons and two daughters are still living.

At White Pigeon John Watson spent his youth, getting his education in the local schools and learning the hotel business from his father. When the Lake Shore Railroad was constructed from White Pigeon to Grand Rapids he was engaged in the work, and was one of the first conductors on that line. It was not long after this that he entered the service of the Grand Trunk Railway as dining car superintendent. When on May 1, 1908, Colonel Watson retired and his name placed on the pension rolls he was dean of the dining car superintendents, a work and a service which he had worked in almost from its crude beginnings on American railways. He had been a dining car superintendent for the Grand Trunk for thirty-seven years, and a circular sent out by the officials of that railway commended and honored his long and efficient career in that capacity. At the convention of the dining car superintendents at the Palmer House in Chicago in 1901, he was the guest of honor and was the chairman who called the meeting to order.

Colonel Watson is a thirty-second degree Mason, and is past commander of the Battle Creek Commandery No. 33 and a member of the Saladin Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Grand Rapids. He also affiliates with the Elks Lodge, and was formerly a popular member of the Athelstan and Country Clubs, but is no longer active in those organizations. Colonel Watson for nearly seventy years has known conditions and people in southern Michigan, and through half of his lifetime he was one of the familiar figures along the route of the Grand Trunk. His knowledge easily extends back to the pioneer era, for his father was one of the settlers who took up government land about White Pigeon, becoming owner of six hundred and forty acres there in the early days.

On July 29, 1855, Colonel Watson was married to Miss Sarah A. Miller, of Centerville, Michigan. Their married life extended through thirty-five years, until her death at Battle Creek on August 6, 1890. There are four children: Addie, who married Frank E. Smith, and died at Minneapolis in 1909; S. E. Watson, a resident of New York; Mrs. Hulda MacDonald, of Grand Rapids; and W. W. Watson, of Portland, Oregon. Colonel Watson married, at Milwaukee, on Christmas eve of 1892, Jessie F. Crosman. Her father was Galen T. Johnson, whose death occurred in Battle Creek, May 1, 1911. Colonel Watson and wife reside at 150 Chestnut street. His home for many years was at White Pigeon, where his children were all born and educated.

WILLIAM H. SNYDER. As a representative of the great basic industry of agriculture and as one who has met with more than ordinary success in the prosecution of his independent calling, William H. Snyder is pleasantly located on the productive farm of one hundred and ninety acres, eligibly situated in Athens township, Calhoun county, Michigan,

Hosted by Google

where he is most profitably engaged in general agricultural operations and stock-raising.

William H. Snyder was born at LaGrange, Indiana, December 8, 1869, and he is a son of Reuben A. and Christina A. (Mallow) Snyder, the former of whom passed to the life eternal January 1, 1908, and the latter of whom is now a resident of the village of Athens. On other pages of this work, in a sketch dedicated to John J. Snyder, brother of the subject of this review, appears a summary of the life of R. A. Snyder so that further mention concerning the family history at this point is not deemed necessary.

The first in order of birth in a family of three children, William H. Snyder was a child of but four years of age at the time of his parents' removal to Michigan, in 1873. The family located on a farm in Athens township, Calhoun county and in due time the father became the owner of a fine estate of one hundred and ninety acres, all of which he cleared and cultivated himself. This beautiful farm is now conducted by Mr. Snyder, of this notice. He received his rudimentary educational training in the public schools of Athens and as a youth assisted his father in the work and management of the home farm. In about 1894 he began to work in a cooperage factory at Athens and he remained in the employ of that concern for three years, at the end of which he returned to the old homestead, which he has since managed and operated. In addition to diversified agriculture he raises considerable live stock and he has gained precedence as one of the foremost farmers in Calhoun county, where he is looked upon as a man of mark in all the relations of life. He is aligned as a stalwart in the ranks of the Democratic party in his political convictions and while he does not participate actively in local politics he gives freely of his aid and influence in support of all measures and enterprises forwarded for progress and improvement.

May 15, 1895, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Snyder to Miss Myrtle Holcomb, whose birth occurred at Burr Oak, St. Joseph county, Michigan, February 4, 1875, and who is a daughter of Milo and Frances Celia (Hutchins) Holcomb. Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb are both living, their home being in Athens township, and Mrs. Snyder's grandfather Hutchins, who has reached the age of ninety-three years, maintains his home in the village of Athens. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder have two children, —Vernor O. and Letha F., both in school at Athens.

NELSON A. SHEDD, R. F. D. No. 3, Tekonsha, Michigan, has been identified with the agricultural interests of this locality all his life. His parents, Ranodyne and Phoebe (Robinson) Shedd, natives of New York, came west to Michigan in 1835 and settled in Tekonsha township, Calhoun county, and it is a matter of record that George Shedd, a brother of Nelson A., was the first white child born in this township. Ranodyne Shedd helped to build the mill race at Marshall and also the one at Tekonsha. When this work was completed, he turned his attention to buying and clearing land. He prospered in his undertakings and acquired a large estate, at the time of his death being the owner of 680 acres. He had made the emigration tour from New York to Michigan by wagon, and he experienced every phase of pioneer life as it was found here, and here he and his good wife reared their family to occupy useful and respected places in life. Of their eleven children only two are now living.

Ranodyne Shedd was a son of Samuel Shedd, who lived and died in Vermont, and who belonged to the family of Shedds in this country fathered by Daniel Shedd who came to America in the sixteenth cen-

Hosted by Google

tury. It was in 1812 that Ranodyne Shedd was born, and he died in Michigan in 1887. He was, politically, a Republican, and at various times he was elected to local office and served efficiently; indeed, he filled all the township offices. His wife was a member of the Baptist church. Her death occurred in 1876.

May 22, 1858, in Tekonsha township, Nelson A. Shedd was born, youngest of his father's family. He was educated in the district schools and early in life was made familiar with all kinds of farm work. Today he is the owner of 264 acres of land, and in addition to carrying on general farming he is engaged in the ice business, packing ice in winter and in summer delivering it to city customers.

On reaching his majority, in 1879, Mr. Shedd took to himself a wife in the person of Miss Delina C. Abel, daughter of Moses M. and Emma (Bradley) Abel, natives of New York, who came to Michigan at an early day and settled on a farm. Mr. and Mrs. Shedd have five children: Clyde, George, Glenn, Leon and Dora, all at home except George who is with the Albion Malleable Iron Works, Albion, Michigan. Clyde and Leon are interested with their father in farming.

While he has never sought official preferment, and is wholly out of politics, Mr. Shedd has always been a loyal supporter of the Republican party. Mrs. Shedd is a member of the Baptist church.

HENRY F. GILBERT has long been a resident of Albion, and is a native son of Calhoun county, born at Tekonsha on May 11, 1845. He is the son of Burton and Laura (Mix) Gilbert, who were natives of New York and Vermont, and the father was engaged in farming in Calhoun county for many years. When the Civil war broke out Henry F. Gilbert was but sixteen years of age, but like many another loyal son of Michigan, his youth was not sufficient to restrain him from offering his services in behalf of the Union, and he accordingly enlisted from Tekonsha, Calhoun county, on September 16, 1861, in Company E, of the First Michigan Third Brigade, in the First Division of the Fifth Army Corps, and he began active service at Gaines Mills, followed by engagements at Fair Oaks, Malvern Hill, second Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Shepardstown Ford, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Mine Run, Cold Harbor, Weldon R. R., Hatcher's Run, Siege of Petersburg, Five Forks, High Bridge, Appomatox, with several minor skirmishes. Mr. Gilbert was discharged on February 28, 1864, at Beverly Ford, only to re-enlist as a veteran in the same command, after which he was given a furlough of thirty days. In April, 1862, he was detailed as guide for the Brigade and served two months. On August 30th, he was slightly wounded at Bull Run and in September, 1862, received a slight scalp wound at Shepardstown Ford. In December, 1863, he was attacked with lung fever, or pneumonia, and was in regimental hospital camp at Fredericksburg for three weeks. He was honorably discharged July 9, 1865, at Jeffersonville, Indiana, after having served throughout the war and participated in some of its most noted engagements. Mr. Gilbert's half-brother, John C. Failing, also served in the Civil war and was shot through the lungs at Chancellorsville. His maternal grandfather, Thomas Gilbert, served in the War of 1812.

Mr. Gilbert has made his home in Albion for many long years, and has been occupied during his life time as a glazier. On November 2, 1870, he was married to Ada L. Cogswell, a daughter of Myron and Betsey, nee Hart, Cogswell, both of whom are deceased. Four children have been born to them;—Myron B., Merritt C., John F. and Laura A.

Mr. Gilbert is a loyal member of Hollingsworth Post No. 210, and

Hosted by Google

his wife is a member of the Women's Relief Corps, No. 136, of Albion. Mr. Gilbert is on the pension list of the United States, and receives quarterly the remuneration accorded to soldiers of his class by a grateful nation.

Mr. Gilbert is a member of the Calhoun County Soldiers' Relief Commission. Served the city as alderman for two terms. Is secretary and treasurer of the First Michigan Infantry Association.

CHARLES A. FAILING, a general farmer and stock raiser, and highly respected citizen of Tekonsha township, Calhoun county, Michigan, is a native of this township, and was born April 21, 1871, son of Joseph M. and Esther (Lowry) Failing, the former a native of New York and the latter of Ohio. His maternal grandfather, Laban Lowry, lived and died in Ohio. John Failing, the father of Joseph M., was born in New York state, and lived there until 1833, when he came west to Michigan and took claim to a tract of government land. His death occurred at Albion, Michigan, about ten years after his removal to this state.

Joseph M. Failing was born in New York, February 10, 1833, and was an infant at the time he was brought by his parents to Michigan. When he was ten years of age his father died. A portion of his boyhood days were spent in Ohio, where he attended the Academy at Milan, and in his youth he worked at the trade of ship-building. Also for a time he was engaged in the milling business. In 1859, he went to California, and subsequently he crossed the Isthmus of Panama. Returning to Michigan, he bought out the interests of the other heirs to his father's farm of one hundred sixty acres in Calhoun county; here he established his home and lived for a number of years, until his removal to Tekonsha, where he now resides. He has been a Republican all his life, and has served officially in various capacities, having filled all the township offices and served twelve years as postmaster of Tekonsha. For many years he has been identified with the Masonic Order, with membership in Washington Lodge, No. 7, F. and A. M., at Tekonsha, in which he has served as Master. His wife, Esther (Lowry) Failing, whom he married in Ohio, was born in Ohio, November 6, 1834, and died November 10, 1893. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in her life exemplified the teachings of the faith she professed.

Charles A. Failing received his early training in the schools of Tekonsha. He took a business course at Ypsilanti and attended normal school at Trenton, after which he taught school one year. He had a brief experience in a railroad office, where he did clerical work; and in Chicago he was for a time in the employ of Swift & Co., and Libby, McNeil & Libby. The farm, held its attractions, and he returned to the scenes of his boyhood and settled down to agricultural pursuits.

In 1893, Mr. Failing married Miss Pearl M. Perine, daughter of Henry and Sarah (Doolittle) Perine. Mr. Perine was a native of New York who came to Michigan at an early day, lived here for a time, and then moved to Missouri, where he settled on a farm. He returned to Michigan, however, and passed his last days and died here. Mr. and Mrs. Failing have two children: Esther and Joe, both attending school at Tekonsha. Like his father, Mr. Failing votes the Republican ticket and affiliates with the Masonic Order. He has served as Junior Deacon and Secretary of Washington Lodge, No. 7, F. and A. M., and he has filled the township office of Road Commissioner. Mrs. Failing is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

ISAAC L. WILLIAMS. The scion of old English families and the son of English parents, yet himself a native of this country and the state

Hosted by Google

of Michigan, in which he was also reared and educated, Isaac L. Williams, one of the enterprising and progressive, and therefore successful and prosperous farmers of Convis township, began the struggle for advancement among men with two valuable assets acquired from heredity and association. He was born with the sturdiness and balance of the English people, and he was trained under the stimulating influence of the strident and all-conquering enterprise characteristic of the United States, and especially that which distinguishes the Middle West, or great Mississippi valley. He had therefore within himself the elements of success in whatever he might undertake, and, having adhered to the calling for which he felt himself best fitted, he has achieved success. Mr. Williams' life began in Marshall, this county, on December 31, 1860. His parents, John and Sarah (Langridge) Williams, were born in England, the former in 1812 and the latter in 1830. The father came to the United States in his young manhood and was married in this country, the mother having been brought to America in her childhood. They became the parents of twelve children, of whom their son Isaac was the sixth in the order of birth, and six of whom are living, five of them in Michigan.

When the father arrived in this country he first took up his residence in Schenectady county, New York. From there he came to Michigan and located on a farm which he cultivated for awhile, then went to Wisconsin for a short time. When he returned to this state he located in Marshall, but soon afterward bought a farm in Eaton county comprising forty acres of good land. This did not entirely suit him, however, and he moved to Sheridan township, Calhoun county. During his subsequent years he lived on several different farms in Calhoun county and always farmed the land under his control with industry and the best intelligence available to him.

The father was fairly successful in his undertakings, but as he had a large family to support, his accumulations in a worldly way were not particularly extensive. In the regard and good will of all who knew him, however, they were considerable, and he was worthy of the full measure of the general esteem bestowed upon him. For many years he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and true in his daily life to its teachings. He died in 1887, but the mother is still living. His political faith attached him warmly and serviceably to the Republican party.

Isaac L. Williams obtained his education in the district schools of Calhoun county. He began making his own way in the world at an early age as a farmer, and to this occupation he has steadfastly adhered ever since. For some years he owned land in partnership with his father-in-law, but in 1892 bought and located on the farm of eighty acres which he now occupies and cultivates with commendable enterprise and skill. He also owns a farm of ninety-four acres in partnership with J. Huggett.

Mr. Williams was married on October 8, 1890, to Miss Libby Stroup, a daughter of Moses and Lelia (King) Stroup, of Olivet in the adjoining county of Eaton on the north, where they were pioneer farmers and where they died, the father in 1908 and the mother some years before. Mr. and Mrs. Williams have six children: Wesley, who is a student of mechanical engineering at the State University of Michigan; Lawrence, who is attending the Bellevue high school; and Grace, Norris and Rupert and Luther (twins), who are pupils in the district school. The father is a Republican in his political relations, and as such has served two years as township treasurer and four as school director. He is widely known and highly esteemed.

Hosted by Google

FRANK J. DIBBLE. Having begun his active career on a low rung of the ladder of attainments, Frank J. Dibble, cashier of the Homer State Bank, has, by close application, untiring energy, and a diligent use of his faculties and opportunities, made steady progress upward, achieving success through his own efforts. A son of Wallace Dibble, he was born, November 6, 1862, in Marengo township, Calhoun county, coming from pioneer stock.

His grandfather, Ralph Dibble, married Mary Osborn, who bore him ten children. In 1836 he came from New York state to Michigan, took up land in Eckford township, and on the farm which he redeemed from the wilderness was prosperously engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, in 1880. As a young man he was identified with the Whigs, but was later a supporter of the principles promulgated by the Republican party.

Wallace Dibble was born in Ontario county, New York, February 3, 1834, and when but two years old was brought by his parents to Calhoun county, Michigan, where he was reared and educated. During his early life he spent a year in Kansas, but was not enough impressed with the country to locate there. Returning to Michigan, he lived a short time in Marengo township, where he bought land, and carried on general farming. He subsequently bought ninety acres of land in Clarendon township, and on the homestead which he improved remained until his death, in 1906. He was a Republican in politics, and both he and his wife belonged to the Baptist church. He married Eliza Silverthorn, who was born in Hope, New Jersey, December 8, 1836, a daughter of Joseph Silverthorn, who came with his family to Michigan many years ago, and died a short time later. Six children blessed their union, five of whom are now living.

Educated in the common schools of Calhoun county, and at the Normal School, Frank J. Dibble subsequently taught school for twenty years, becoming well and favorably known as an educator. He has acquired through his own exertions property of much value, owning a good seventy-acre farm in Clarendon township, and a handsome residence in the city of Marshall. He is now connected with the Homer State Bank as its cashier, a capacity which he is filling most ably and satisfactorily. This bank has a capital of $20,000.00, with a surplus of $4,000.00, and deposits amounting to about $30,000.00, it being one of the most flourishing institutions of the kind in the county.

Politically Mr. Dibble is a Republican, and influential in local affairs, having held all of the offices of Clarendon township, including that of supervisor, and in 1906 was elected treasurer of Calhoun county, and was re-elected to the same responsible position in 1908, serving in all four years. Fraternally he is a member of Lodge No. 5, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Marshall, and religiously both he and his wife are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Dibble married, in 1884, Carrie M. Blashfield, a daughter of Alvin and Elizabeth (Marshall) Blashfield, who came from New York to Michigan, and settled on a farm in Clarendon township, where they spent their remaining years. Mr. and Mrs. Dibble have one child, Calla C., who was graduated from the Marshall high school in 1911.

GEORGE BURKLEY. At this point in a volume dedicated to the careers of prominent and successful citizens of Calhoun county, Michigan, it is a pleasure to direct attention to the life of George Burkley, who is engaged in general farming and stock-raising on his beautiful estate of one hundred and sixty acres in Newton township. Mr. Burkley is deeply and sincerely interested in community affairs and is intrinsically loyal

Hosted by Google

and public-spirited in connection with all matters affecting the general welfare of Calhoun county.

George Burkley was born at Wurtemburg, Germany, February 17, 1849, and he is a son of Christian and Christina (Smith) Burkley, both of whom were likewise born in Wurtemburg, Germany, where they were married. They became the parents of eleven children, of which number the subject of this brief review was the youngest born. In 1851 the Burkley family came to America and located in Barry county, Michigan, where the father purchased a small farm, on which he resided until his demise at the age of seventy-six years. After his arrival in America Mr. Christian Burkley became a stalwart Democrat in his political allegiance and in religious matters he and his wife were devout Lutherans. Mrs. Burkley survived her honored husband for several years and was eighty-eight years of age when she died. She was a very intelligent woman and retained her mental and physical faculties in much of their pristine vigor until death called her home.

In Barry county, Michigan, whither he had been brought by his parents when but a child of two years, George Burkley was reared to maturity. In 1866 he purchased a farm of eighty acres in Fredonia township, residing thereon for the ensuing thirty years. In 1906 he removed to his wife's old home,—the Ulrich Farm, in Newton township, a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, one of the finest farms in Calhoun county. Mr. Burkley is an intelligent farmer and an excellent manager, he is independent in politics and a supporter of all matters projected for the betterment of educational conditions. In their religious faith they are Lutherans.

In the year 1877 Mr. Burkley was united in marriage with Miss Anne Carrie Ulrich, a daughter of John and Louise (Schray) Ulrich, who were early settlers in Newton township, whither they came from Wurtemburg, Germany, in 1852. Two daughters have been born into the Burkley home, who are still living.

THE NEALE FAMILY. The Neales of Battle Creek, to whom this statement applies came from Chipping Sodbudy, Gloucestershire, England, a place which, in 1848, of about eighteen hundred inhabitants and is situated on a main turnpike between that city and London, ten miles east of Bristol, as Bristol then was. The Neale family was an old one, having authentically traced lineage dating from the time of the Norman conquest of England, as recorded in a work published in 1906, by John Alexander Neale, D. C. L., a graduate of Queens College, Oxford, entitled "Charters and Records of Neales of Berkeley, Yate and Corsham," of two hundred and sixty-three folio pages.

For more than three hundred and fifty years the immediate ancestors of the Neales of Battle Creek had been a conspicuous family in the parish of Yate, a bucolic and grassy place of fine dairy farms in the valley of the Severn,—of local fame for its fine old church and bell tower, and the picturesque, ivy-covered ruins of its moated court, of which its rustic population was very proud. This review was prepared by William F. Neale, of Battle Creek, and the text of his original manuscript concerning the family of which he is now the only representative of the older generation in Calhoun county, is given with slight variation.

As I first remember my father's family at Yate, he was carrying on the business of boot and shoe-making, being, it was said, the first to engage in mechanical business of all their long line. They had been uniformly connected with the land, as owners or lessees. Father was a man of good mentality and a communicant of the Church of England, was

Hosted by Google

six feet in height. Transcripts of parochial records of baptisms, marriages and funerals, and floating legends, regarding ancestral persons and common events, in our home at Yate, were matters of frequent and interested talk, which had its effect on our personal consciousness, as family connections had upon our place among the people of the parish. Our home at Yate occasionally was a meeting place of local musicians. Father Gabriel Neale played the flute or sang baritone, but he was not, however, a member of the church choir. The music generally practiced was sentences and anthems to be used in the services of the church. Occasionally the instrumentalists would "show off" by taking up some simple form of sonata, or the singers would exploit a three-part glee. There were five boys at home,—three older and one younger than myself,—and to all of us these musical meetings were just delectable. To Maurice, my younger brother, and myself they were fascinating to such an extent that music became the dominating enjoyment of our lives, and we always lived near to each other until his death, in May, 1904. Father died at Yate, in July, 1837, and the family moved to Sodbury, I believe, in 1841. Mother was fourteen years younger than father, who was sixty-three years of age at the time of his sudden death. She was born at Sodbury and her maiden name was Mary Iles. Mother was fond of poetry and flowers, and had almost a phenomenal memory for poetical quotations. Of her family, beyond her parents, I never knew anything. She died at Sodbury, the year before Michael and Maurice left there for Battle Creek, Michigan, her death being the result of pulmonary consumption.

Michael and his newly wedded wife, whose maiden name was Mary Louise Worlock, of Codrington Court, a nearby parish, and Maurice H. eighteen years of age, February 28, 1848, came to Battle Creek in June, 1848. They were followed by William F., of Sodbury, and Gabriel, of Bristol, in April, 1849. Battle Creek in 1848 had passed the pioneer stage and was a bustling, ambitious and rapidly growing village, having a noticeable unity of faith in its future, upon the ground of its sense of common interest and fraternal helpfulness. It had its mill-race, conveying water power to its three flouring mills,—Titus's, Hart's and Cushman's; Mason & Ward's and Wallace's factories; Nichols & Shepard's foundry and saw-mill engine establishment; and other industries of less note. It had its dry-goods stores, groceries, drug stores, churches, mechanic's shops, saloons and a weekly newspaper. Supplementing all these, it had the transportation facilities of the Michigan Central Railroad, bringing commodities from the great outside world to this as to all other places along its stimulating line.

From the first our strangers were met with a generous, helpful cordiality, which had the effect of making them feel as if they had arrived at home again, and through all the intervening years they have been identified and identified themselves with the interests of the place as inseparable from their own. In its music, its enjoyment of literature, its public order and its social fellowship and good will, they have tried to be at one with the most harmonizing movements of the place. What these same have been and their success, Battle Creek, in Calhoun county, must tell in its own unimpeachable way.

Socially there was probably nothing that specialized the first generation of the Neales of Battle Creek more than their family Christmas gatherings. In the early 50's Christmas was only very exceptionally observed here, but for them it had always been the day from which and for which the other days had been counted. They could not abandon it. It raised pleasant memories of their own earlier lives and the still older lives and usages of their ancestors, who brightened the short and cloudy English days of the season with its historic merriments and hospitali-

Hosted by Google

ties. At first these family parties of the Christmastide in Battle Creek were held at the home of Michael Neale, the only brother then married, but as time went on, and Maurice and myself were married, and children came to all of us, the Christmas family gatherings became to the larger circle the red-letter day of all the year, and went the round of our separate homes. In later years a few congenial friends were invited to join us, and to all the occasions represented the high tides of social life,—occasions it was good to experience and is pleasant to remember, as a foretaste of that blessed time when "Man to man, the world o'er. shall brithers be, an' a' that."

In July, 1850, Michael and Maurice H. Neale, as partners under the firm name of M. & M. H. Neale, commenced the manufacture of boots and shoes, in a one-story wooden building on North Jefferson street. Since then—now over sixty years—it has remained in the family and has been devoted substantially to the same line of business. Changes of partners have been made among the brothers, and in March, 1906, George F. Neale became sole proprietor, by purchasing the interest of William F., the writer of this article. It has never been other than the Neale shoe store, and represents one of the oldest, if not the very oldest, continuous mercantile enterprises now to be found in Battle Creek. From the beginning the establishment received liberal patronage, and at its best development it gave employment to more than twenty workmen. It is now entirely commercialized, in the handling of general lines of footwear and such accessories as usually go with shoes. About 1860 Michael and Maurice H. Neale erected the present store building, at 11 North Jefferson street. Further than this it would seem enough to say that from first to last the several managements of this business have held an unchallenged record for commercial responsibility and honest dealing.

Of the personal occupation and public service of Michael, Maurice H. and William F. Neale it may be said that at first they all worked at shoemaking, all having been craftsmen of that order in England. Gabriel had been in the service of the Great Western Railway Company at Bristol, England. He died, in August of the same year in which he came to Battle Creek, his death having been caused by pneumonia. He had made good progress in scholarly preparation for educational service, and was a young man of fine character and physical presence, as he stood six feet in height. He was a member of the Baptist church and was zealous in the work of its Sunday school.

Michael, from the time of father's death, had conducted the business at Yate,—from 1837 to 1841,—and continued to be the head of the family at Chipping Sodbury, in the larger business of that place, until May, 1848, when he started for America, his arrival in Battle Creek having occurred in June of that year, as has already been noted. Here he was senior partner of the business founded in 1850, and he retained this position until his death, in August, 1894. The one exception was his being elected justice of the peace, for the term beginning in 1885. He was a man of sterling integrity, of social habits and gracious personality, and he was extremely attached to his home. He built his home, at the corner of Champion and West streets, and also the residence at 157 Van Buren street west, the present family abode of George F. Neale.

Regarding Maurice H., it should be understood that above all else he was a natural-born musician. Music was in the very attractiveness of his personality. He was a handsome boy of eighteen and one-half years when he came to Battle Creek, and was as brilliant an amateur flute-player as I have ever known. He also played on the violin and

Hosted by Google

violoncello, and as a little boy he was a village celebrity at Yate,—as a performer on a piccolo, and accordion and a six-hole tin whistle. Music was inseparable from him during his whole life. One might as well separate a skylark from its upward flight and its song heralding of the sunrise. With all sorts and conditions of men and women he was a great favorite as a salesman in the shoe store, and its early success was enhanced more than a little by his influence. He was elected city treasurer in 1875-6-7, and city recorder in 1878. The latter office included the recorder's court at that time, this tribunal having charge of enforcing the city ordinances. In later life Maurice learned to make and repair violins, and in manufacturing the same he modeled them after a fine Cremona instrument that came into his possession in his long continued practice of buying and selling violins. In his business he was intelligent and deeply interested. He passed to the life eternal on the 7th of May, 1904. He married Emily M. Campbell, of Battle Creek, on the 15th of August, 1858, and she died on the 14th of February, 1896. They owned an attractive home that stood on the site of the present Ward fountain, on the depot grounds of the Michigan Central Railroad.

William F. Neale, the writer of this statement, after giving up his shoemaking, which was principally the making of men's hand-sewed boots in the establishment founded by his brothers, assumed charge of the telegraph office maintained in the law office of Campbell & Stewart, this change having been made in 1852. Here he read law books, between the calls for his service as telegraph operator, and he thus continued to apply himself until January, 1857, when he was appointed deputy register of deeds for Calhoun county. His new office necessitated his removal to Marshall, but after passing about one year in the register's office he resigned his position and returned to Battle Creek, where he resumed the study of law but not his work as a telegraph operator. In 1858-9 he was elected clerk of the village board, and in 1860 and 1861 he was elected city recorder, in connection with which there was no recorder's court at that time. In 1864 he was appointed commissioner to take soldiers' votes in Arkansas. In 1867-8 he was elected supervisor of Battle Creek. From 1869 to 1872 he served as register of deeds of the county, with residence at Marshall. From 1877 to 1879, inclusive, he was a member of the board of education of Battle Creek, and from 1881 to 1884 he served as county clerk. By appointment, he was deputy county clerk from 1865 until 1902, and he was the incumbent of the office of notary public continuously from 1869 until 1908. From 1885 until March, 1906, he continued as junior partner in the firm of M. & W. F. Neale, in conducting the shoe business in Battle Creek.

On the 24th of May, 1862, was solemnized the marriage of William F. Neale to Miss Susan Barton, of Battle Creek, and the great loss and bereavement of his life came when she was summoned to eternal rest, on the 6th of November, 1908. In 1884 Mr. Neale erected his home residence, at 163 Van Buren street west, and in March, 1906, he sold his interest in the shoe business to George F. Neale. Since the death of his wife he has found a pleasant home in the family of John B. Neale and wife, who at the present time occupy the old homestead on Van Buren street west. Here he is waiting the solution of the great beyond, firm in the belief that "Life is ever lord of death," and that "Love can never lose its own."

Of the second and third generations of the Neale family of Battle Creek I shall present a mere catalogue:

George F. married, on the 8th of June, 1893, Miss Lydia Gage, of Barry county, Michigan and following is a brief record concerning their

Hosted by Google

children: Bertha Louise, born May 8, 1895, and is a member of the class of 1913 in the high school; George M. born November 4, 1896, and was drowned March 5, 1904; William F., Jr., born January 18, 1899; Lydia Worlock born October 5, 1900; and Charles Gage born May 11, 1902. The three last mentioned are doing good work in the public schools, and this family represents the lineage of Michael Neale.

John Byington Neale, son of William F., and wife was wedded, on the 30th of December, 1891, to Miss Ida Mary Peters, of Marshall, and they have one child, Rachel Mary, who was born May 8, 1896, and who is a member of the class of 1914 in the Battle Creek high school. John B. Neale is superintendent of the Gage Printing Company, of this city.

Christopher Alfred son of William F., and wife was born July 16, 1869, and died February 18, 1885, of cerebral meningitis.

Robert Michael, son of William F., and wife was born December 7, 1870, and is now a resident of Grand Haven, Michigan. He married Miss Louise Hatch of Battle Creek, March 16, 1898. Their son Robert Louis, born March 23, 1900, is a student in the seventh grade in the Grand Haven public schools.

William A. Neale, son of Maurice H., and wife was born March 16, 1862, and is a printing compositor by vocation. On the 31st of July, 1895, he married Miss Nettie M. Stillson, of Battle Creek, and they have no children.

Maurice E. Neale, second son of Maurice H., and wife was united in marriage, on the 14th of September, 1895, to Miss Margaret Brigstock, of Battle Creek, and their only child, Maurice B., is in his first year in the high school.

GEORGE F. NEALE. More than sixty years ago was established in a modest way a boot and shoe shop in a building that stood on the site of the present modern and handsomely equipped shoe store of George F. Neale, at 11 Jefferson avenue, north, in the city of Battle Creek, and the enterprise has been continuously conducted by representatives of the Neale family since 1850. It was founded by Michael and Maurice H. Neale, the latter of whom later sold his interest to a younger brother, William H., who is now one of the venerable citizens and pioneers of Calhoun county and the only one of the three brothers now living. Michael Neale was the father of him whose name initiates this review, and on other pages of this publication are given adequate data concerning the family history, so that it is not necessary to repeat the same in the present connection. No name has been more prominently and worthily identified with mercantile and civic interests in Battle Creek for a longer period of years than that borne by the subject of this review, and both as a citizen and business man he has well upheld the prestige of his patronymic, the while he has been continuously identified with a line of enterprise that has been followed by the family for three or more generations. His establishment is one of the oldest and most popular of the mercantile houses of the metropolis of Calhoun county, and he has fully upheld the high reputation that has so long been enjoyed by the family of which he is a worthy scion.

George F. Neale was born in Battle Creek on the 27th of June, 1858, and is a son of Michael and Mary Louise (Worlock) Neale, both of whom were born and reared in England, where their marriage was solemnized in 1848. In the same year the young couple embarked on a sailing vessel and set forth to establish a home in America. After a weary voyage of several weeks' duration they landed in the port of New York City, whence they came forthwith to Battle Creek, where they passed the residue of their lives. Michael Neale having been summoned to eternal

Hosted by Google

rest in August, 1895, and his loved and devoted wife having passed away on the 3d of December of the following year. Michael Neale was born and reared at Sudbury, Lancastershire, England, and was a son of Gabriel Neale, who there followed the vocation of shoemaker and under whose effective direction each of the three sons, Michael, Maurice H. and William F., learned the trade of boot and shoemaking in a most thorough way. The sons all came to Battle Creek in an early day and in 1850 Michael and Maurice H. opened a shoe shop on the site of the present store of the former's son, George F., of this review. In those early days they manufactured all of the boots and shoes handled in their shop, as this was before machinery was invented for this purpose, but eventually they developed their business into a general handling of boots and shoes of regular machine manufacture, thus keeping in pace with the march of progress. The enterprise was conducted by the founders under the original title of Neale Brothers until the '80s, when Maurice H. sold his interest to his brother William F. The title of the firm was then changed to M. & W. F. Neale, and this continued until the death of Michael Neale, in 1895, as already noted. His son, George F., then became associated in the business and this alliance continued until 1906, when the present proprietor purchased the interest of his uncle, since which time he has individually conducted the large and prosperous business, the establishment being one of the veritable mercantile landmarks of Calhoun county.

Michael Neale was a man of strong individuality, fine mental powers and impregnable integrity, so that he ever commanded unqualified confidence and esteem in the community which represented his home for nearly half a century. He took a deep interest in all that touched the welfare of his home city, which he had aided in developing from a mere village, and while he was never ambitious for public office he served for a number of years as justice of the peace. He was a stalwart and effective advocate of the principles of the Republican party. His only child is George F., to whom this sketch is dedicated.

George F. Neale, whose name initiates this article, is indebted to the public schools of his native city for his early educational discipline, and from his youth to the present time he has been identified with the shoe business, as he began to assist in the store of his father and uncle when he was a mere lad. It may readily be understood that he is thoroughly familiar with all details of this line of enterprise, is a good judge of values and is able to select stock that will satisfy his large and appreciative trade, the reputation of the fine old establishment constituting its best commercial asset. Mr. Neale is progressive and public-spirited and is ever ready to lend his influence in the furtherance of measures tending to advance the best interests of his home city and county, to which his loyalty is of the most insistent type. He is associated with his cousin, Ned Neale, in the ownership of the building in which his store is located, the same having been erected by the original firm of Neale Brothers, and he is also the owner of other realty in the city, including his attractive residence property, at 157 Van Buren street, west. Mr. Neale is a Republican in his political adherency but has never had aught of aspiration for public office. He is not identified with any fraternal organizations but holds membership in the Athelstan Club.

On the 8th of June, 1893, Mr. Neale was united in marriage to Miss Lydia Gage, daughter of Charles C. and Sarah (Van Horn) Gage, who still reside on their fine farm, in Assyria township, Barry county, where Mrs. Neale was reared, though she was born in Pipestone township, Cass

Hosted by Google

county, this state. Mr. and Mrs. Neal have four children,—Bertha Louise, William F., Lydia Worlock, and Charles Gage. The elder daughter is a member of the class of 1913 in the Battle Creek high school.

ALBERT H. SMITH is a prominent agriculturist of Newton township, Calhoun county, and is a scion of one of the worthy German families of that township. He was born January 26, 1874, the eldest son of John J. Smith and his wife, Anna Rommel, both of whom receive more extended mention in the sketch of the former to be found elsewhere in this volume. Albert H. Smith was reared in his native township of Newton and there received his education in the district schools. He chose as his occupation that to which he had been reared, farming, and has followed that line of endeavor to the present time. For seven years he worked on his father's farm and for others by the month; then in 1910 he bought 130 acres. This tract lies just south of the 160 acres on which he resides, the property of his wife's mother, Mrs. Luther Hurd, and both farms are under his management. The usual lines of agriculture are followed and as a specialty he gives much attention to the raising of fine blooded sheep. He enjoys a beautiful home and prosperity has repaid his efforts, making him one of the substantial men of his community.

On December 9, 1896, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Jennie Hurd, a daughter of Luther Hurd, more extended mention of whom will be found in the sketch of Jesse A. Hurd. Three children have been born to their union: Dean R., Wilbur H. and Wilma L., aged respectively twelve, ten and six years, the eldest two of whom are now attending school.

Mr. Smith is a stanch adherent of the tenets of the Republican party and has been influential in public affairs of a local nature. He is the present highway commissioner of Newton township and has also served two years as township treasurer. Fraternally Mr. Smith affiliates as a member of the Knights of the Maccabees and is also a member of his local Grange. He is a young man of vigor and ability, aligned with that class of citizens who stand for progress and have made Newton township one of the most prosperous sections of the county.

JOHN J. SMITH. Since the birth of our nation German-American citizens have entered prominently into the life of our country. As agriculturists they have been successful everywhere and there is no community in which the thrifty German is not a welcome citizen. Among the prosperous farmers of that nationality in Calhoun county, Michigan, is John J. Smith, whose property is located in Newton township and forms one of the comfortable homesteads of that section.

Mr. Smith was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, November 10, 1846, the oldest son of Joseph and Elizabeth Schmidt, both natives of the Fatherland who spent their entire lives in the land of their birth. The father had passed away before his son John came to this country. A daughter, Mrs. Mary Russ, and a son, Joseph Schmidt, also survive the parents and are residents of Germany.

John J. Smith acquired his education in the splendid public schools of Germany and since his residence in America has become proficient in the use of the English language, both to read and to write it. A number of English as well as German periodicals are received at his home regularly and by their means Mr. Smith keeps well versed in the affairs of the day. He emigrated to this country in 1869, a young man twenty-three years of age, and came directly to Calhoun county, Michigan,

Hosted by Google

locating in Newton township. Four years after his arrival he became an independent owner of property when he bought sixty acres of his present homestead. A subsequent purchase of forty acres has been added to the original tract and the whole Mr. Smith farms, both intensively and extensively, progressive methods being those used in the management of his interests. To this bestowal of thoughtful care the soil has responded with an abundance that makes his farm one of the best in the township.

In 1873 Mr. Smith married Miss Anna Rommel, who was the youngest of the five children born to her parents, Carl and Margareta Rommel. Both parents of Mrs. Smith were natives of Germany and emigrated from that country in 1869, locating in Newton township, Calhoun county, where the father died a short time after their arrival. Mrs. Rommel survived until 1895, when she too passed away.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have three children: Albert H., a prominent farmer in Newton township, whose individual sketch will be found elsewhere in this work; Jeanette, now Mrs. Henry Spooner, and John A., whose untimely death on his twenty-fifth birthday, July 9, 1905, bereaved his parents of a loved son and also left a widow and two children to mourn his untimely passing. The two children, thus orphaned, are Leon B. and Elmer J. Smith, and they make their home with the subject, who is also their grandfather.

Politically Mr. Smith is a Republican, and his religious faith is expressed by his membership in the Lutheran church.

Colonel Hiram F. Hale. This venerable and distinguished citizen of Battle Creek has had a varied and interesting career, in which he has proved his powers as a man of affairs, as a gallant soldier and military officer, and as a citizen of the highest loyalty and public spirit. For nearly a decade past he has maintained his home in the Post Tavern, in Battle Creek. Colonel Hale is a scion of a family whose name has been linked with the annals of American history since the early colonial era and the original American ancestor came from England to establish a home in New England, that cradle of so much of our national history.

Colonel Hiram Fillmore Hale was born at Lockport, Niagara county, New York, on the 23d of December, 1833, and is a son of Hiram and Lucretia (Johnson) Hale. The mother was a sister of Franklin Johnson, who was one of the early presidents of the Massachusetts Life Insurance Company. Hiram Hale was engaged in the buying and shipping of wheat during the earlier part of his active business career, and later he became general agent for a leading life insurance company. He became established in Michigan and passed the closing period of his life in Battle Creek, where he died when about sixty years of age, secure in the high regard of all who knew him. His widow survived him a number of years and was a resident of Colorado at the time her death occurred, when she had reached the venerable age of eighty-three years. She was a member of the Protestant Episcopal church, as was her husband. Of their family of sons and daughters, Colonel Hale is now the only surviving member.

In his native city Colonel Hale received excellent educational advantages, as gauged by the standard of the locality and period. It is impossible to enter into full details concerning his long and active career in connection with activities of broad scope and importance. He came to Michigan prior to the inception of the Civil war and promptly tendered his services in defense of the Union. He enlisted in the Sixth Michigan Cavalry and was made major of this gallant command, with

Hosted by Google

which he participated in many important engagements marking the progress of this great conflict through which the integrity of the nation was preserved. He also served for a time as commander of Company A., Merrill's Horse Guard, one of the finest cavalry regiments in the United States army. He resigned his command and thereafter served as paymaster of the United States army, with which he was connected for about five years. Receiving the brevet title of colonel, the honored subject of this review made a splendid record of service to the Union army, and has ever maintained a deep interest in his comrades in arms, as signified by his membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. He is also an appreciative member of the Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, the headquarters of the commandery being in the city of Detroit. The only other citizen of Battle Creek who holds membership in this noble organization is Dr. A. W. Alvord.

Colonel Hale has been concerned with no small amount of railway promotion and construction, largely in the west, and he was vice-president of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad at the time of the building of its original lines. He was numbered among the pioneers in exploiting the gold-mining industry in the Black Hills of South Dakota, and was very successful in his operations. His constructive and administrative ability has been brought to bear in divers other lines of enterprise but for the past twenty years he has lived a virtually retired life. He passes the winter season in the south, customarily at Biloxi, Mississippi, and during the remainder of the year maintains his home at the Post Tavern, as previously noted. In politics the Colonel has ever given a stanch allegiance to the Democratic party, and he has been an effective exponent of its principles and policies. He has been affiliated with the Masonic fraternity from the time of attaining his legal majority. He was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in the lodge at Weedsport, Cayuga county, New York, and became master of the same in the following year. He is also identified with the capitular order of Masonry, but his further progress in the fraternity was interrupted at the time of the Civil war, never to be resumed. He is a communicant of the Protestant Episcopal church and still holds membership in the church of this denomination at Junction City, Kansas, where he at one time maintained his home for a number of years. In Battle Creek, he is a member of that representative social organization, the Athelstan Club.

Colonel Hale has been married three times, first to Miss Josephine Colvin, who died at Lockport, New York. There are no surviving children of his first marriage. Those of the second marriage are: Hiram S., who is a resident of Denver, Colorado; William T., who resides at Hancock, Michigan; Harry S., who maintains his home in Denver, Colorado, and Annie, the wife of Frederick H. Plummer, of Beatrice, Nebraska. Colonel Hale next married Mrs. Helen (Nichols) Caldwell of Battle Creek. She was the widow of J. M. Caldwell and a daughter of the late John Nichols, one of the founders of the great threshing-machine manufactory still conducted under the title of Nichols & Shepard, in Battle Creek. No children were born to this union, and Mrs. Hale passed away on the 8th of December, 1903, her memory being revered by all who came within the sphere of her gracious influence in the city that was so long her home and in which her interests were centered.

DAVID YOXHEIMER. For nearly half a century was David Yoxheimer numbered among the representative citizens of Clarence township, and he was one of the most venerable pioneers of Calhoun county at the

Hosted by Google

time of his death, which occurred on the 18th of September, 1911, at which time he was ninety-four years of age. He established his home in Clarence township in 1863, and became one of the representative farmers of that part of the county, and contributed in generous measure to its civic and industrial development and progress. His character and services were such as to render most consonant the offering of a tribute to his memory and a brief review of his career, the while his name merits enduring place on the roster of the sterling pioneers who aided in the development and upbuilding of Calhoun county.

David Yoxheimer was born at Bethlehem, Northampton county, Pennsylvania, on the 11th of August, 1817, and was a scion of one of the stanch old families, of German lineage, that was founded in that state in an early day. He was a son of George and Hester Yoxheimer, who continued to reside in the old Keystone state until the second decade of the nineteenth century, when they removed to Ohio and numbered themselves among the pioneer settlers of Mahoning county, where they passed the residue of their lives and where the father reclaimed from the wilderness a productive farm.

He to whom this memoir is dedicated was a mere boy at the time of the family immigration to Ohio and in Mahoning county he was reared to manhood under the conditions and influences of the early pioneer epoch in the history of the old Buckeye state. There he gained practical experience that proved of great value to him in the ordering of his affairs in later years, as he repeated much of this experience in grappling with the forces of nature after he had become a pioneer in the comparative wilds of Calhoun county, Michigan.

In Mahoning county, Ohio, on the 17th of December, 1842, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Yoxheimer to Miss Harriet Towns, who likewise was a representative of one of the sterling pioneer families of that section of the state. Within a comparatively short period after his marriage Mr. Yoxheimer removed to Stark county, Ohio, where he became a successful farmer and where he continued to reside until the autumn of 1863, when he disposed of his property in that county and came to Calhoun county, Michigan. He purchased a tract of land in Clarence township, a portion of the same having been reclaimed from the forest, but the major part having been still covered with the native timber. With the passing years the concrete evidences of his energy and industry were shown in the reclaiming and developing of the wooded portion of his farm, and his progressiveness and good judgment enabled him to make the old homestead one of the fine farms of Calhoun county. He and his gracious wife endured the vicissitudes and hardships incidental to pioneer life, but their home was one of contentment and happiness.

Mr. and Mrs. Yoxheimer ordered their lives in accord with the highest principles of integrity and honor, strove to do good unto all men and were kindly and sympathetic in their association with others. They were held in unqualified esteem and affectionate regard in the community that represented their home for nearly a half century, and after long years of loving companionship they were not long to be separated in death. Mrs. Yoxheimer was summoned to the life eternal on the 6th of November, 1900, and her husband, venerable in years and weighed down with the sorrow begotten of the severed ties, followed her to the "land of the leal" on the 18th of September of the following year.

Mr. Yoxheimer was a man of splendid vitality and he continued in active supervision of his farm long after the time when the average man of such advanced age would have been found retired. For forty-eight

Hosted by Google

years he resided on the old homestead and there his death occurred, the place having been endeared to him and his cherished wife through the gracious memories and associations of many years. He was ever ready to adopt improved methods and accessories in connection with the work of his farm, and it may well be noted that he had the distinction of being the first to bring a threshing machine into Clarence township. This equipment he operated profitably for a number of years. Though he never manifested any desire for the honors of public office, Mr. Yoxheimer gave his influence and co-operation in support of those measures and enterprises that were projected for the general good of the community, and well informed concerning the questions and issues of the day, he accorded unswerving allegiance to the Democratic party. During the years after the most of the children had departed from the old home it was their custom to assemble each year at the homestead on the occasion of their father's birthday anniversary and to pay honor to him and the devoted mother with all of filial solicitude. In their declining years Mr. and Mrs. Yoxheimer were cared for with the utmost devotion and sympathy by Mr. and Mrs. William L. King,—their daughter and her husband,—who provided for them every comfort and attention that love and sympathy could suggest. The two families lived together for more than twenty years, in the closest ties of affection and mutual interest, and the home relations were in every respect ideal.

The remains of Mr. and Mrs. Yoxheimer rest in the family lot in the cemetery at Springport, Jackson county, not far distant from their old homestead, and after years of earnest and useful endeavor they "rest from their labors," the while the record of their lives offers both lesson and inspiration. They became the parents of nine children, concerning whom brief data are entered in conclusion of this memoir: Harmon is a resident of Springport, Jackson county, as is also Rachael, who is the wife of Morton Austin; Hester resides on the old homestead, in Clarence township, and is the widow of William L. King, to whom a specific memoir is dedicated on other pages of this volume; Milo and Orville maintain their home in Brookfield, Eaton county, as does also Retta, who is the wife of Frank E. Dewey; Ella resides in Jackson, this state; Mary Jane is the wife of William Bell, of Marion, Iowa; and Clara is the wife of Daniel Annis, of Kansas City, Missouri. Fourteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren are now numbered among the descendants of David Yoxheimer.

William Leonard King was born at Bloomfield, Seneca county, Ohio, on the 14th of February, 1844, and his death occurred at his home, in Clarence township, Calhoun county, Michigan, on the 4th of September, 1910. He was a son of Ignatius S. and Susan (Brown) King, who were representative of the pioneer element in the Buckeye state and who became pioneers of Eaton county, Michigan, where they established their home, in Eaton township, in 1853. The father reclaimed a farm from the forest wilds and became a citizen of influence in the community in which he lived and labored to goodly ends, both he and his wife continuing to reside on their old homestead until they were summoned to the "undiscovered country from which bourne no traveler returns." William L. King was a lad of nine years at the time of the family removal to Eaton county, Michigan, and there he was reared to manhood under the sturdy and invigorating discipline of the pioneer farm, the while he duly availed himself of the advantages of the common schools of the locality and period. In after years he never wavered in his allegiance to the great basic industry of agriculture and through its medium he achieved success worthy of the same.

Hosted by Google

In his home county, on the 4th of July, 1866, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. King to Miss Mercy Elizabeth Foster and she was summoned to eternal rest on the 15th of March, 1873, and the only child of this union is Charles H. King, of Chicago, Illinois. On the 18th of February, 1875, Mr. King contracted a second marriage, by his union with Miss Hester Yoxheimer, daughter of the late David Yoxheimer, of Clarence township, Calhoun county, to whom a special memoir is dedicated on others pages of this work. Mrs. King survives her honored husband and still resides on the old homestead, in Clarence township. Mr. King continued to be actively identified with agricultural pursuits in Eaton county until 1878, when he removed to the old homestead of his wife's parents, in Clarence township, Calhoun county, of which he purchased a part of, and where he continued to carry forward his energetic and successful enterprise as a farmer and stock-grower until the close of his long and useful life. Two children were born to the second marriage,—Zoe, who is now the wife of Dr. George R. Pray, a representative physician and surgeon in the city of Jackson; and Harry M., who resides upon and owns a part of the old homestead farm, in Clarence township.

Mr. King was a man of broad views and well fortified opinions, and he was intrinsically reserved and unassuming in all the relations of life. He was generous and tolerant in his judgment of his fellow men, and this attitude forefended objective enmities, with the result that there is all of consistency in saying that he did not have an enemy in the world. His political support was given without reservation to the cause of the Democratic party and he was liberal and public-spirited as a citizen. He served several times as treasurer of Clarence township and was otherwise given marks of popular confidence and esteem. He was affiliated with Springport Lodge, No. 131, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in the neighboring village of Springport, Jackson county, and his funeral services were held under the auspices of this lodge, interment being made in the Springport cemetery.

Mrs. King, as already stated, resides on the old homestead, which is hallowed to her by many gracious memories and association, since the same has been her place of abode during practically her entire life.

Edwin H. Luff. It is due to the efforts of the energetic, progressive and intelligent farmers that agricultural conditions in Calhoun county are now in such a healthy condition. Intelligent working of the soil, recognition of the value of crop rotation, and the use of modern machinery, have improved conditions wonderfully during the past several decades, and one who is assisting in the advancement of the county's agricultural interests is Edwin H. Luff. Mr. Luff may lay claim to the distinction of being a native born citizen of Calhoun county, his birth having occurred January 10, 1874, and is a son of Henry O. and Parmelia J. (Lewis) Luff.

Samuel Luff, the grandfather of Edwin H., was born in England, from whence he brought his family to the United States in 1830, settling in Vermont for ten years, and then coming to Michigan and settling in Marengo township, living there for five years, then moved to Lee township. Here Samuel Luff purchased the farm now occupied by Edwin H. Luff, and when he died, his son, Henry O. Luff, who was born in England in 1826, inherited the property. He was engaged in agricultural pursuits, throughout his life, and at the time of his death, in 1908, was the owner of sixty acres of good land. He was a Republican in politics, but did not care to enter public life, his private enterprises satisfying his ambitions. He and his wife, who passed away December 25,

Hosted by Google

1896, were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the parents of nine children, of whom Edwin H. was the sixth in order of birth, while only one other child resides in Calhoun county, namely: Laura, who married Raleigh Comstock.

Edwin H. Luff was educated in the district schools of his nativity, and as a youth assisted his father in the work of the home farm. He continued to reside on the old homestead, which he has owned since the death of his father, and now has 146 acres, under a high state of cultivation. He has erected a new home, substantial barn and appropriate outbuildings, and has devoted his attention to general farming and the raising of live stock. Mr. Luff, like his father, is a Republican in politics, and at the present time is serving acceptably as justice of the peace of Lee township. He and Mrs. Luff are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which they have been active.

In 1896 Mr. Luff was united in marriage with Miss Anna B. Orrison, the estimable daughter of John Orrison. Her father, a native of the Buckeye state, moved from there to Calhoun county during the early sixties, but at this time is a resident of Jackson county, where he follows farming. At the outbreak of the Civil war he went back and enlisted in an Ohio regiment, and served gallantly for three years. Mr. and Mrs. Luff have two interesting children: Marion, who is attending school; and Henry, eight years old, also a student. Mr. Luff has been an energetic and industrious worker since the time he left school, and his energies have been expended in such a way as to benefit the interests of his community. He has a wide acquaintance in Marengo and Lee townships, enjoying the friendship of many of this section's best people.

WILLIAM R. VESTER has been actively identified with the mercantile interests of Calhoun county since 1903, which year marked his establishment in that line of enterprise in Level Park, and here he has since built up a thriving trade. A native son of Michigan, he was born May 8, 1869, in Barry county, and is a son of Rufus W. and Lucinda (Lydy) Vester, the former of whom was a native of Monroe county, Michigan, while the latter was born in Ohio. During the Civil war Rufus W. Vester served two years in Company E, Michigan Light Artillery, and after receiving an honorable discharge from the army at the expiration of that time, he turned his face toward Michigan again and thereafter gave his attention to agriculture, being for many fruitful years engaged in tilling the soil in Barry county. He has in recent years sold his farm and divided the accumulation of years among his children, retaining only what he actually required for his immediate needs, his present home being at Covert, Michigan.

Educated in Michigan, William R. Vester was graduated from the Ypsilanti Normal School with the class of 1896, and during his student days he supplied his more pressing needs by teaching school in Barry county during alternate seasons. For six years after his graduation he held a position in Battle Creek as proof reader on the *Review Herald*, and in 1903 he came to Level Park, where he established himself in the mercantile business. He put in a fine and comprehensive stock of general merchandise, and in the management of that business has since been particularly successful, although without experience in the mercantile line previous to his launching of this enterprise. He has drawn to himself a pleasing patronage and the demands of his business are such that his entire time and attention are required for the proper conduct of its various details. In the early years of his residence here, however, prior to that stage in the business when it made such heavy draughts upon his

Hosted by Google

energies, Mr. Vester taught school for three years in the vicinity of Level Park. He is one of the leading and influential citizens of the community which represents his home and the center of his commercial activities, and has borne his full share of the civic burden since his establishment here. He is a Democrat, and with his wife, is a member of the church of the Seventh-day Adventists.

In 1895 Mr. Vester was married to Miss Clara Fleming, a daughter of Thomas Fleming, who was for many years a prosperous farmer in Barry county, where he made his home until his death, which occurred in 1902. He was a leading member of the Democratic party organization of his community and was ever an ardent advocate of the doctrine of Free Silver. Mr. and Mrs. Vester have two children;—William F., now a student in the Battle Creek high school, and Lucile M. attending school in Level Park.

HAMMOND J. COLEMAN has for years been known for one of the most extensive dealers in wool, grain, coal and pelts in Marshall, where he has made his home for the best part of his life. He was born in 1855, in Calhoun county, and is the son of Lincoln and Parmley (Bethel) Coleman. The father was born in 1825, and died in 1912, in the eighty-seventh year of his life. He was a native son of England who emigrated to America in young manhood, settling in Kalamazoo county, and later moving into Calhoun county, where he settled permanently and there passed the remainder of his life. He was the owner of a good farm, well stocked and equipped, and he did considerable in the way of sheep-raising. He was prosperous and was regarded as one of the enterprising and representative men of his neighborhood.

Hammond J. Coleman was born on his father's Calhoun county farm and as a boy attended first the district schools, and later the high school at Marshall, their near-by town. Upon leaving school he turned his attention to stock-dealing, even in that early day his young mind recognizing the splendid possibilities that business offered. He carried on that industry in connection with his farming of a general nature, and in 1882 he formed a partnership with his brother, George W., under the firm name of Coleman Brothers, and engaged in the sale of groceries. Their place of business was centrally located in Marshall, and they soon had built up a thriving business in their line. They continued to be thus associated until 1904 when Mr. Coleman purchased the interest of his brother. George W., and thereafter conducted the establishment on his own responsibility. Mr. Coleman, as might be expected, is well known to the farming interests of Calhoun county, practically every farmer in the county having done more or less business with him in the years that he has been identified with his present line, which since 1888 has been represented by wool, hides, coal, grain and seeds, that year making the change in his business from a straight grocery establishment to one of its present character.

Mr. Coleman has been prominent in the public life of Marshall, and has sustained his full share in the civic burden with the passing years. He has served as alderman of the second ward, and in 1892 was elected mayor of the city, serving two terms in that capacity, and discharging the duties of his high office in a manner most creditable to himself and the city.

In 1882 Mr. Coleman was married to Miss Belle Cameron of Marshall, and one daughter has been born to them,—Bethel J., now in school at St. Thomas.

The family home is maintained at No. 308 North Division street, where they have a fine and commodious residence. Mr. Coleman's fra-

Hosted by Google

ternal relations are represented by his membership in the A. F. & A. M., Lodge No. 20.

CASH L. TUCKER. It is a very encouraging fact that among Calhoun county's enterprising and progressive citizens are numbered many men who are in the very prime of vigorous manhood, for it is to this class that the county looks for its development. Especially is this so among the agriculturists, and in every section are found men who have already made a success of their enterprises, and who bid fair to make their communities into the garden spots of the state. In this class stands Cash L. Tucker, one of the skilled agriculturists of Lee township. whose well-tilled fields testify to his ability and enterprise. Mr. Tucker is a native Michigander, his birth having occurred October 27, 1865, in Lansing, Clinton county, and his parents being Samuel and Eliza Jane (Thomkins) Tucker, natives of New York, where the former was born in 1834 and the latter in 1840. His father died in 1912, but the mother still survives. making her home at De Witt, Clinton county. They had a family of four children. as follows: Frank, who is deceased: Cash L.; Earl, residing in De Witt; and Fred, residing on the old homestead.

Mr. Tucker's father came to Michigan during the same year that Cash L. Tucker was born. in 1865, and located in Clinton county, where he spent the remainder of his life in farming. He owned 212 acres of good land, and devoted a great deal of his time to sheep-raising, with which he was identified for upwards of a quarter of a century. He belonged to the Blue Lodge, Chapter and Knights Templar of Masonry, and was a Republican in his political views, while his wife was an active member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Cash L. Tucker secured a good common school education, attending the institutions in DeWitt, and was reared to the occupation of an agriculturist. He continued to reside on the old home farm, assisting his father until 1912, during which year he came to Calhoun county and purchased 100 acres of good land in Lee township. This he has put in an excellent state of cultivation, and on it has erected a comfortable modern residence and substantial barns and out-buildings, the general appearance of the property being such as to reflect credit upon its owner. He is interested in all matters pertaining to the welfare of his community, and at all times is ready to lend his aid and influence in behalf of movements tending to the general good. Like his father, Mr. Tucker is a Republican, but he has never had the time nor the inclination to engage actively in political work, although he has taken a good citizen's interest in the leading questions and movements of the day.

In 1886 Mr. Tucker was united in marriage with Miss Priscilla Smith, the estimable daughter of Samuel Smith, formerly a well-known agriculturist of DeWitt, but now deceased. One child has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Tucker: Ethel, residing at home. who graduated from the institution at Springport with the class of 1912. The members of the Tucker family are well known in church and social circles, and have many friends throughout Lee township.

AMOS M. JOHNSON. An able and representative agriculturist, who has done much to advance progress and conserve prosperity in LeRoy township, Calhoun county. Michigan, is Amos M. Johnson, who owns and operates a finely improved estate of one hundred acres. Mr. Johnson is an energetic young man and one who is bound to succeed in a business way.

Amos Morgan Johnson was born in Newton township, Calhoun county, Michigan, the date of his nativity being the 29th of December, 1887.

Hosted by Google

He is a son of Amos Gilbert and Lucy Belle (Morgan) Johnson, both of whom were born in Calhoun county, the former a son of Thomas Jefferson and the latter a daughter of B. F. Morgan. A sketch of the Morgan family appears elsewhere in this work. The father was engaged in farming operations during the entire period of his active career and since his retirement in 1911, he has resided with his family, in the city of Battle Creek. He and his wife are the parents of four children, whose names are here entered in the respective order of their birth,—Amos M., of this review, Zilpha, Carrie and Florence. In politics Amos G. Johnson is an uncompromising supporter of the principles promulgated by the Republican party and in a fraternal way he is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. He has been the incumbent of a number of important school offices and has proved himself an efficient servant of the public interests in those capacities. He is a man of high ideals and his innate kindliness of spirit has won friends for him in every walk of life.

The Johnson family removed from Newton township to LeRoy township, Calhoun county, in 1892, at which time the subject of this review was a child of five years. He was educated in the district schools of LeRoy township and later pursued a commercial course in the Michigan Business & Normal College. As a young man he worked in a store at Sonoma, Michigan, for four years, at the end of which time he returned to the home farm, where he remained for the ensuing five months. He was employed as clerk in a feed store in Battle Creek for a few months and after his marriage in 1909, he worked with his father-in-law on the Sprague farm until August, 1911, when he assumed charge of the old Johnson homestead, on which he has since resided. This farm is one of the most attractive on the road, and comprises one hundred acres of the most arable land. In addition to diversified agriculture Mr. Johnson devotes considerable attention to the breeding of high-grade Holstein cattle. He also breeds Berkshire hogs to some extent.

January 4, 1909, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage with Miss Eda Sprague, a daughter of Thomas Sprague, mentioned elsewhere in a separate article in this work. Two children has been born to them,—Aileen and Donald. In politics Mr. Johnson gives his support to the Republican party and in religious matters, he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Johnson is also a member of the Gleaners.

Bertram Barker Stevens. A career of successful business achievement and public-spirited citizenship has brought Mr. Stevens to a leading place of influence in the city of Battle Creek. Coming to this city in 1886 at the age of eighteen, he learned the plumbing trade of John O. Galloup, the plumber, heating and mill supply dealer. He was in that employ for eighteen years, and then established an independent business.

Mr. Stevens is the largest contractor for plumbing and heating in Battle Creek and has few competitors for the big contracts in all this section of the state. By solid ability and a thorough experience he has built up a business of first rank. When, a few years ago, he took the contract for placing the plumbing and heating in the Grand Trunk car shops at Battle Creek, his bid for the work being forty-three thousand dollars, he succeeded in getting the largest single contract ever let in this part of Michigan. As a business record, some of his other contracts should be mentioned. He did the work in this line for both the old and the new high school buildings in Battle Creek, and the plumbing contract for the Marquette Motor Company at Saginaw, both the plumbing

Hosted by Google

and heating contract for the court house at Manitowoc, Wisconsin, besides many others in both public and private buildings, but those mentioned indicate the wide range of his business. He puts much energy and good judgment into his business, and for that reason he has advanced far beyond the ranks of the local tradesman.

Bertram Barker Stevens was born in Cass county, Michigan, November 17, 1868, a son of Clinton and Candace (Rudd) Stevens, both of whom were natives of New York. The father was a railroad man until the great strike of 1894. In 1895 he located on a farm of three hundred and sixty acres which he owns in Dakota, and has been one of the prosperous farmers of the northwest. Before going west he had been a resident of Battle Creek for over twenty years. For a long time he served as one of the popular conductors on the Chicago & Grand Trunk railway. His wife and the mother of the family died in 1908 at the Nichols Hospital in this city, and is buried here. And the five children, three daughters and two sons, are living, namely: Blanche, now Mrs. Blanchard, of Dakota; Bertram B.; Mrs. Nellie Parmelee, of Jackson, Michigan; Jay R., who learned his trade with Bertram B. and is now a plumber in New York City; and the youngest, who lives with her sister in Dakota. All the children were born in Cass county except the youngest who was born at Kent, Ohio.

Mr. Stevens received his education at Battle Creek and at Elkhart, Indiana, being a graduate of the high school in the latter city with the class of 1886, following which he began his business career. In addition to the business already described, he is vice president of the Gartner Baking Company and a director of the Battle Creek Brewing Company. In politics he is a Republican, and is affiliated with the Battle Creek Lodge No. 12, A. F. & A. M., the Knights Templar, and the Knights of Pythias, Elks and Eagles. As a substantial business man he gives his support to the movements for the general improvement of the city, and has a large circle of warm friends. His best affections are for his home and family, and when away from business he is usually found at his attractive residence at 148 Lathrop avenue.

Mr. Stevens was married to Miss Maude Higgins, of Cass county, Michigan, where she was born and reared. Her mother is dead, and her father, Benjamin Higgins, now lives in Salem, Oregon, where he is a grocer. Mr. and Mrs. Stevens are the parents of three children, Hazel, John W. and Bertram B., all natives of Battle Creek. The daughter, who is a very accomplished young woman, was graduated from the high school, and is also a graduate of the Battle Creek Conservatory under Professor Edwin Barnes. John W. will graduate from the high school in 1912, and the other son is also still a student.

AUGUST KAPP. The enterprise and enthusiasm of the born merchant have been the elements in the success of August Kapp, now at the head of the Kapp Clothing Company of Battle Creek. The Big Store for clothes, hats and men's furnishings, at the corner of Main street East and Jefferson avenue South, is an establishment that has been created out of nearly a quarter of a century's individual energy and reliable business policy. Obvious though this is as an illustration of success, it does not tell the whole story. The difficulties overcome in attaining all this are a greater tribute to this merchant's character than the actual figures that might represent his resources and standing in business circles.

August Kapp was born in southwestern Germany, on the Rhine river, June 2, 1865. His father, Moses Kapp, who was a farmer and cattle

Hosted by Google

raiser during his active life, now lives retired at the old home where this son was born, and is now past eighty years of age. The mother died there in 1906. Five boys and three girls made up the family, the youngest son dying in infancy, but all the rest are living. Of the three sons who came to America, Jacob has recently sold out his general merchandise business at Three Rivers, this state, and Henry F., who is a traveling salesman for a clothing house, is also interested with his brother in the business at Battle Creek.

During his boyhood August Kapp received some education in the German schools. He was fourteen years old, when, in 1879, he landed at New York City. He was a green immigrant, and his experiences during the first few months in American environment he can now regard with humor, but at the time they were tragic. Unable to speak the English language, the boy was at still further disadvantage. A stranger whom he met borrowed the thirteen dollars which was his capital for beginning life in the new world. Needless to say, the borrower still owes the money with interest. This was only one of the experiences he had, and as he regarded it later he could see that he had been taken advantage of at nearly every turn up to the time he acquired the use of English. Night study enabled him to overcome the master difficulties of language, and he was then better fitted for his new career.

Rochester, New York, was where he learned the clothing business, and he spent three years in that city, during part of which time he attended night school at the Rogers & Williams Business College. At the age of sixteen, two years after getting off the boat at New York, he was one of the highest salaried clothing men in Rochester. His employers then sent him to manage their store at Canandaigua, where the former manager had proved unsatisfactory. From there he went to Elmira, where the same parties opened a store and Mr. Kapp opened and managed the store for them for three and a half years. The Elmira firm in 1888 engaged him to manage their business at Battle Creek, which transferred him to the city which has since proved his permanent home. After a year or so he acquired an interest in the business, which was for several years known as the Frohlich & Kapp store. Buying out his partner in 1894, Mr. Kapp conducted the business under his individual name until 1908, when it became the Kapp Clothing Company. He is owner of two-thirds of the stock, the rest belonging to his brother previously mentioned. At the reorganization of the business in 1908, Mr. Kapp planned a stock company in which all his old employes should have an interest in the business. This excellent purpose was defeated through the selfish disposition of one of the lessors of the building.

Mr. Kapp has been very successful in material affairs. Real estate has received considerable attention from him, and he is the owner of the four-story brick Kapp block, 24-26 Main street west, which he erected in 1905, and which is now occupied by one of the S. H. Knox & Company 5 and 10 cent stores. He owns another block at 6-8 East Main, besides other city property.

In politics Mr. Kapp is an independent voter, his ballot going to the men he considers best qualified. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, affiliating with the Battle Creek Lodge No. 12 and other local bodies, and is a member of the Moslem Shrine at Detroit. His membership is also in the Odd Fellows Lodge No. 29, and he belongs to the Athelstan Club. Mr. Kapp married, January 30, 1894, Miss Minetta Van Praagh. She is a native of this city and received her education here. They are the parents of two children, Josephine and Elsa. Their home is at 8 College avenue.

Hosted by Google

EVERETT G. KNAPP has passed most of his life thus far in the state of his birth, and will in all probability make Michigan his home for the remainder of his days. He was born in Lenawee county, this state, on the 27th day of August, 1839, and is a son of Joel F. and Electa (Blakely) Knapp, both of whom were born in the state of Massachusetts and were married at Clyde in the state of New York. They came to Michigan in 1837, locating in Lenawee county, and there both continued to reside throughout the remainder of their active careers. Mr. Knapp passed away on December 15, 1849, while his wife was called home three years previous, her death occuring on April 11, 1846. Mr. Knapp had been engaged in Mercantile pursuits in York state, but in Michigan he turned his attention to farming, and was thus engaged for the remainder of his days. He was a staunch Whig and a leader in its local ranks in Lenawee county, which he served for thirteen years as supervisor of Woodstock township. He was a thoroughly conscientious man and was esteemed and honored of all who knew him. Five children were born to the Knapp home, of which number but two are yet living: Everett G. of this review, and George, who is a resident of Presque Isle county, Michigan.

Everett G. Knapp was reared on a farm and early became accustomed to the strenuous work involved in that business. When he was seven years old the death of his mother brought about his removal to the home of Leonard Humphrey, and they remained his parents and guardians until he reached man's estate. Of Leonard Humphrey and his good wife a more detailed sketch will be found elsewhere in this work, so that further comment upon them is not deemed necessary at this point. Suffice it to say that their adopted son fared more fortunately than many an orphaned child, for while he needed the care and guidance of earthly parents he never knew the lack, and those worthy people in their declining years knew no home other than that of their foster son, who with his wife, felt it a privilege to care for them with all tenderness and devotion in the latter years of their life. Leonard Humphrey died in 1899 and his widow survived him for seven years, being eighty-four years of age at the time of her demise.

Everett Knapp received a common school education and in addition to becoming familiar with all details of farm work, he learned the tinner's trade, and for a number of years he devoted himself to that work. Early in life, however, he taught in the district schools of Champaign county, Illinois, meeting with excellent success in his labors in that respect. He in later years turned his attention to farming, and for twenty-seven years has been the owner and operator of the old Humphrey place in Concord, Jackson county. It comprises one hundred acres of land practically all of which is under an excellent state of cultivation, while the buildings are of a substantial character, most speaking evidence of the thrift and prosperity of the owner.

Mr. Knapp has taken an active and helpful interest in public affairs of a local nature. Serving as justice of the peace for sixteen years. Politically, he is a sturdy Republican, and is a man well informed upon issues of public concern. For a few years Mr. Knapp was a resident of the state of Illinois, and Nebraska, and in Champaign county of the former state he served in the office of township assessor. From that state as a young man he went forth as a loyal defender of the Union, enlisting in 1861 as an orderly sergeant in Company I, Twenty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he continued in active service for three years and one month, participating in all the engagements in which his regiment acted, save the battle of Stone river. He was severely wounded in the battle of Missionary Ridge and confined to hospital for some time. On December 27, 1861, he was promoted at Raleigh, Mis-

Hosted by Google

souri, to a second lieutenancy. On December 29, 1862, he was made a first lieutenant at Nashville, Tennessee, and he was promoted to a captaincy in his company on May 24, 1864, while under General Sherman at the siege of Atlanta. He received an honorable discharge at Springfield, on September 5, 1864, after a long and honorable record, and returned to Michigan soon thereafter. Mr. Knapp is a member of Albion Post No. 220 of the Grand Army of the Republic, and is the recipient of a pension from the government. He was made a Mason at Mahomet Illinois, in December, 1864, and is now a member of Murat Lodge No. 14, of Albion, Mich.

On April 7, 1869, at Mahomet, Champaign county, Illinois, Mr. Knapp was united in marriage to Miss Mary C. Clark, who was born in Clark county, Ohio, on July 30, 1850. She was a daughter of John F. and Rebecca M. (Bireley) Clark, who were pioneers of the state of Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Knapp have one daughter,—Maud E., who is now the wife of Jesse S. Brigham, of Concord, Jackson county. Mrs. Brigham was a successful teacher in Jackson county for a number of years previous to her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Knapp are members of the Presbyterian church at Albion, and have ever been active and prominent in the good works of that organization.

In February, 1910, Mr. Knapp rented his farm and purchased a home in Albion at 906 Perry street, where he now resides.

Leonard Humphrey. The late Leonard Humphrey was born in Wayne county, New York, on July 10, 1814, and was the son of Ida and Abigail (Field) Humphrey, the former being a native of Vermont and of Scotch ancestry, born in 1777. The mother was a native of Massachusetts of English ancestry, and born in 1789. In 1835 he, in company with his father, came to this section of the state and in Jackson county bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Section 3 and 4, Concord township. They returned to New York in the autumn, and the following spring, 1836, moved upon the place, where he resided up to the day of his death, on February 11, 1899. Leonard Humphrey was married on January 1, 1840, to Anna C. Humeston, the daughter of James and Lydia (Knapp) Humeston. He held the office of notary public for two terms, was superintendent of the Sunday-school over forty years, and was a member of the Presbyterian church. In politics he was ever a Republican. For more than half a century the name of Leonard Humphrey was identified with the community of Albion, and when he died he was in the eighty-fifth year of his life. His widow survived him until 1906, and her passing was a loss to the community equal to that of her loved husband. She was born at Clyde, New York, in 1822, and came to Michigan in 1837. She united in early life with the Presbyterian church at Concord, later becoming a member of the Albion church, and more than thirty years prior to her demise she became a member of the Parma Presbyterian church, of which she was a member at the time of her death. She had no children, but gave a true mother's love to other children who were reared in their home. One of the children to whom she and her husband gave the love and devotion of parents was Everett G. Knapp, who became a member of their home when he was seven years of age, and who in turn gave them the most filial love and care in the declining years of their life.

Mrs. Humphrey was a woman gifted with more than ordinary faculties, and was a splendid scholar. The last twenty years of her life she kept a diary, which was a most interesting book, as well as a source of much pleasure to her. Her rare mind retained its alertness to the last, although her body was greatly wasted by years of illness.

Hosted by Google

FREDERIC SAMUEL GOODRICH, professor of Greek in Albion College since 1892 and at present alumni professor of the English Bible, is one of the most widely known men in college circles in the state of Michigan. Dr. Goodrich was born on September 9, 1865, in Waterbury, Connecticut, and is the son of Augustus Ives and Helen Isabel (Corbett) Goodrich, both natives of the old Nutmeg state. The Goodrich family is one of the oldest in the history of this country, the first representative of the name to locate in America being William Goodrich, who came from England. The first entry on the official records of Connecticut concerning him is that of his marriage to Sarah Marvin in 1648. William Goodrich was deputy from Wethersfield in General Court held in Hartford, Connecticut, on May 15, 1662, and was an ensign in the train band of Wethersfield, and is so spoken of in the Colonial records of Connecticut just following the close of King Philip's war. He died in 1676. His wife, Sarah, was the daughter of Matthew and Elizabeth Marvin, also of Hartford, Connecticut.

The son of these parents, Ephraim, was born June 2, 1663, and died in 1739. He married Sarah Treat, the daughter of Major Richard and Sarah (Coleman) Treat, in 1684, and they made their home in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. Their son, Thomas, was born September 27, 1701. He married Hannah Reynolds, the daughter of John Reynolds, and their son, Peter, born June 7, 1720, married Bathsheba Miller, on January 1, 1758. Luther Goodrich, the son of Peter and Bathsheba Goodrich, was born on the 16th of July, 1776, and died November 12, 1832. On November 16, 1797, he married Sarah Danforth. They had a son, George, born September 8, 1805, in East Haddam, Connecticut, and he married Charlotte L. Ives on May 21, 1828. Their son, Augustus Ives, who was the father of Dr. Goodrich of this review, was born on September 16, 1833, in Bristol, Connecticut, and on January 22, 1861, married Helen Isabel Corbett, as mentioned in a previous paragraph. Augustus Ives Goodrich was for years superintendent of the Waterbury Clock Company. He is a member of the Methodist church, and has always given his support to the Republican party. He was a man always prominent in his own city and district, who stood high in the regard and general opinion of his fellowmen. He was secretary of the board of education for years, at one time was police commissioner, and served two terms as representative from his district in the state legislature.

Thus this fine old family kept its location in Connecticut from the time of the first American representative down to the present generation.

Frederic Samuel Goodrich was born in Waterbury, and there he received his early education. He was graduated from the Waterbury high school in 1882; from Wesleyan Academy, in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, in 1885, and from Wesleyan University, in Middletown, Connecticut, in 1890. He is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa, and Psi Upsilon fraternities. The years of 1890-91 he spent in study in the University of Berlin and in the American School of Archaeology in Athens, and in 1891, upon his return home, he was appointed Registrar of Wesleyan University, and tutor in Greek. In the following year came his appointment as professor of Greek in Albion College, at Albion, Michigan, the position which he is filling today. In 1897 he received the degree of M. A. from the University of Michigan, and in 1909, Defiance College, in Ohio, conferred upon him the degree of D. D.

On January 3, 1893, Dr. Goodrich married Mary Maltby Harrison, the daughter of Stephen E. and Catherine (Summers) Harrison, the father being a relative of President William Henry Harrison and Benjamin Harrison. Mrs. Goodrich was educated in a private school con-

Hosted by Google

ducted by the mother of Dr. Goodrich, and later studied in the Art Students' League of New York City. Her grandfather, Gary Harrison, was a missionary to the Indians in the "Great Northwest," and her mother was exceedingly prominent in benevolent works in Waterbury, Connecticut, where Mrs. Goodrich was born and reared. Dr. and Mrs. Goodrich have two children, Frederic Harrison and Helen Ruth.

Dr. Goodrich is a Republican in his political faith, and his fraternal relations are represented by his membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has been Noble Grand; the Masonic order and the Fraternal Aid Association.

Besides being an efficient man in his position in the college, Dr. Goodrich finds time for other duties that have called him. For eighteen years he has been a member of the State Executive Committee of the Michigan Y. M. C. A., and he is general secretary of the Michigan Sunday School Association, to which position he was appointed in 1910. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and has been a member of the Detroit Conference since 1895. He is president of the Physical Culture Training School in Chicago, and he is much sought after as a lecturer in the line of his work. In a "History of Waterbury" his name is to be found among poets and authors as a writer of hymns, his Advent Hymn, "The Triumphal Entry," being especially noteworthy.

It is not too much to say that there are few college professors in Michigan who exert a wider influence than Dr. Goodrich, and to all who have been associated with him a broader, nobler outlook upon life has come, with a truer vision of service.

CYRUS B. HUNGERFORD is a retired farmer of Albion, and a veteran of the Civil war. He has been a resident of Michigan since 1850, that year marking the advent of his family into Calhoun county, which has represented his home and the scene of his activities for the most part since then.

Born in Fairfield county, Connecticut, in the town of Sherman, on August 9, 1844, Cyrus B. Hungerford is the son of Stanley and Charlotte (Whitney) Hungerford, both natives of Connecticut. In 1850 the family migrated to the state of Michigan, settling in Calhoun county, where the father bought eighty acres of farm land. This land he settled down to improve and with the passing years put it into a splendid state of cultivation, erecting a commodious dwelling and suitable barns for his requirements. He was a carpenter by trade, and usually carried on the work of his profession in connection with his farming operations. He died in 1896, his widow surviving him until 1903, her death occurring at Marshall, Michigan.

Their son, Cyrus B., of this brief review, received his early education in the district school of his home village, and for a time attended school in Ypsilanti. He was reared to farm life and knew best how to avail himself of such advantages in an educational way as came in his direction, so that he profited well by such schooling as he was privileged to know. During the Civil war, September 5, 1864, Cyrus Hungerford enlisted in Company C, of the Thirteenth Michigan Infantry, with Colonel Shomaker in command. He joined the regiment at Chattanooga, Tennessee, and he took part in several skirmishes while on the march to the sea. On June 8, 1865, he was honorably discharged, and returned to his home in Calhoun county, where he entered the State Normal at Ypsilanti, Michigan. In 1898 Mr. Hungerford left the farm and moved into Albion, where he has resided ever since, his principal duties being those of janitor of the Presbyterian church of Albion.

In 1868 Mr. Hungerford married Miss Maggie Hardenburg, the

Hosted by Google

daughter of Jerry and Polly Hardenburg and one son and three daughters were born to them. Hattie is a teacher in the Albion high school; Perry R. is a graduate of the medical department of the University of Michigan and is engaged in practice in Concord; Leslie is the wife of C. E. Ackley, and lives at Marshall; and Ethal, who lives at Concord, with her brother, Dr. Hungerford.

Mr. Hungerford is a member of E. W. Hollingsworth Post No. 210 G. A. R., and he and his family are members of the Methodist church. He is a Republican in politics, and he is assured of a sufficient income during his declining years by reason of the pension which he received from the government in token of his service to the Union in time of war.

HON. JOHN M. C. SMITH. There is no need to go into a detailed account of all that the Honorable John M. C. Smith, of Charlotte, Michigan, has accomplished, for the simple fact, that his record stands out in men's minds today, for the things that he has accomplished. His work is too well known to be easily forgotten. As a lawyer, he has won a reputation for ability in speaking and for a clean-cut grasp of his subject that has brought him success many times. As a member of Congress during a critical period in the legislative history of the country, he has proved faithful to the trust the people have reposed in him, and a valuable member of that legislative body.

John M. C. Smith is a son of Richard and Barbara (McMunn) Smith, who came to America in 1855, bringing their infant son with them. He was educated in the Charlotte Union schools and the University of Michigan. In 1882 he was admitted to the bar in Detroit and has ever since been in practice in Charlotte, Michigan. He is also admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States. In addition to his large and lucrative law practice he is also interested in farming and stock raising, and has manufacturing interests. His ability along financial lines led to his election to the office of president of the First National Bank of Charlotte. His varying interests, and his consequent mingling with men of many different kinds, gave him a thorough grasp of conditions and an understanding of the needs of the people of his section.

His personal popularity and the confidence that the people reposed in him is shown by his election as an alderman of the city, and two terms prosecuting attorney. In 1908 he was sent as a member of the Michigan Constitutional Convention, and in 1911 he received the highest honor that has yet come to him in being elected to the Congress of the United States as a representative from the Third District of the state of Michigan.

Mr. Smith married Lena Parkhurst, of Charlotte, Michigan, on the 6th of October, 1887. He is a Republican in politics and is a member of the Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons and many other social orders.

FRANK E. NOWLIN. One of the most prominent business men, not only in Calhoun county, Michigan, but also in the state, is Frank E. Nowlin, of Albion. He is one of the most extensive shippers of grain and hay and other farm products in the county, and has built up a remarkably far reaching business from a very small beginning. He is a modern agressive business man, who understands the value of advertising and of the modern idea that in order to get business one must go out after it. He has built a reputation for furnishing just what he promises to furnish, and a large part of his success has come from the confidence that his patrons place in his reliability.

Hosted by Google

PHILO DIBBLE was born December 2, 1790, in Mt. Washington, Berkshire county, Mass.

His ancestor, Robert Dibble, with his son, Thomas, and daughter Mary, came from Weymouth, England, and settled in Dorchester, Mass., in 1635. Their descendants were among the enterprising sons of New England, took an active part in the settlement of the country, and their names are found among those of the founders of several of the towns of Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Philo's grandfather, John Dibble, was one of the proprietors, or original settlers, of Mt. Washington. Daniel, one of his three sons, grew up and married in Mt. Washington; he served his country as Captain in the Revolutionary army. In the fall of 1799, having sold his property interests in Mt. Washington, Daniel with his wife and eleven children moved, with the aid of an ox team and one horse, into New York state and settled in the wilderness—now Meredith, Delaware county.

We can hardly realize, in this day of cable encircled world, that it was two weeks after General George Washington's death before the residents in Meredith heard of it. The sad tidings were carried by couriers on horse back. The grief and manifestations of sorrow following the receipt of the news made such a vivid impression on the child of nine, that Philo was wont to relate it in later years as one of the events of his childhood. Philo learned the saddlers trade; married Susan Lawson of Newburgh, February 13, 1814.

They settled in Skaneateles, which was one of the towns on the stage road between Albany and Buffalo. Its natural beauties attracted a fine class of residents. Churches, schools and public library were early established and well maintained. In the old records we find Philo Dibble's name as one of the generous donors towards these institutions.

His oldest child, Charles Philo, became interested in the movement to the "New West," and they together, in 1835, started with horse and buggy and drove to Michigan, visiting the wonderful Niagara Falls on their way. They drove through southern Michigan and as far west as Chicago, which then consisted of a fort and a few log houses near it. Marshall was much more attractive and, after revisiting it, they decided to locate there. They returned to Skaneateles. The following year Charles moved to Marshall and superintended the building of a house for his father's family, at the northeast corner of State and Gordon streets, the house is still doing good service, and the brick block so long known as Dibble's Block. It was the second brick block in the town, the first one was the Comstock Block, across the Marshall House Park, southeast of the Dibble Block. In 1837, Philo with his devoted wife and four younger children left their home, which is still one of the attractive places in Skaneateles, and came to the new home in Marshall. Marshall was built in an oak opening, that is where the Indians had burned the land, preserving from harm the magnificent oak trees, and having no undergrowth save the green grass. One could ride in any direction among the trees, and it was almost like fairy land. Indians were plentiful in the surrounding country; they were peaceable and in the summer they would swarm into the town selling baskets, bows, arrows and berries.

One day Cornelia Dibble sat at her piano, playing the tunes learned in the old home, when in walked a grave, tall Indian. Cornelia remembered having heard that an Indian never forgot a kindness shown, so she welcomed him and continued playing, while one after another Indian came in, until the room, the hall and the yard were filled. Cor-

Hosted by Google

nelia played till tired and then bowed and motioned with her hand and they all silently withdrew.

After coming to Marshall Mr. Dibble did not re-enter active business. He was a silent partner in the firm of C. P. Dibble & Co., and invested in farm lands. Mr. Dibble, with Andrew L. Hayes, Lansing Kingsbury, Samuel Camp and others formed the Marshall Company which platted and established the village of Hastings, now the beautiful and growing county seat of Barry county. The plat of Hastings was recorded August 8, 1836 and for many years thereafter Philo Dibble was deeply interested in the success of the village. Mr. Dibble served for a time as civil magistrate. He was always an attendant and liberal supporter of the Presbyterian church; acting for many years as its treasurer. Soon after uniting with the church he was elected an elder and continued in that office until his death in 1867.

Although always possessing a cheerful and happy nature, he was not exempt form the discipline of sorrow. During his life in Marshall he was called upon to give back four of his five children. His wife died in 1860 and he later married Mrs. Harriet Cook, who survived him.

CHARLES PHILO DIBBLE, eldest child of Philo and Susan Lawson Dibble, was born August 28, 1815, in Skaneateles, New York. From his parents' home the ground sloped gently to the Skaneateles Lake, and doubtless his strong love for the beauties of nature was the result of his early life by that beautiful sheet of water.

Boy playmates, growing together into lifelong friends, were found among the Allis, Porter, Pardee, Jerome, Brinkerhoof, Roosevelt, and Sandford families. Well disciplined in school were they, for the early residents of Skaneateles appreciated the advantages of sound mental training. Charles was set to studying Greek when only nine years old. When older he attended the famous Homer Academy.

At the age of fourteen he critized the way in which an employe was conducting the store of his father in Kellogsville, a small village seven miles from Skaneateles. His father finally said, "You may take the store and have any profit you can make out of it." Charles went to Kellogsville, took charge of the store, conducted it for a year and then sold out, making a good profit out of his year's work.

Returning to Skaneateles, he entered the store of Mr. Pardee. As a clerk, he so won the affection of his employer, that in revisiting Skaneateles more than thirty years afterwards, Mr. Pardee was one of his most frequent visitors, and he expressed often his great affection for "Charlie."

In 1835, as we have told in the sketch of Philo Dibble, Mr. Dibble, with his father, drove through the country as far west as Chicago. They then decided to make their future home in Marshall. He returned to Marshall in 1836 and commenced his successful mercantile life there. At the same time he superintended the building of a home for his father's family, and the brick block, long known as Dibble's Block, on State street. He moved his stock into the brick block and continued the business through many years. In 1865 he took his eldest son, Charles A., into partnership and gradually placed the management of the business in his hands. This enabled him to take more time for his many outside interests.

With others, Mr. Dibble, put through wild land, the Marshall and Bellevue plank road, finally making it into a hard gravel road.

He subscribed liberally and worked for new railroads, factories, in short, for any betterment of Marshall. The Agricultural Society was one of his interests. Mr. Dibble was vice-president of the First

Hosted by Google

National Bank from its organization; he served as acting president during the years that the Hon. Charles T. Gorham served his country as Minister to the Hague and later in the official life at Washington.

Mr. Dibble was married September 14, 1842, to Miss Hetty Johnson of Ithaca, New York. He was more than fortunate in the choice of his life's partner. His home life was a happy incentive to the development of the best, in all who were sheltered there. And the gentle influence was radiated through home, church and community, a blessed though unconscious urging towards the truly good in life. "Hospitality without grudging" was extended in that home. Relatives and friends were ever welcomed, and many a laborer in God's vineyard, minister, traveler or teacher, found there the cordial welcome and kindly strengthening interest while they rested.

All through his busy life, Mr. Dibble responded fully to the outside demands upon him. Anything that was for the best interests of the town was his interest. At his death it was said that "no man in the county ever enjoyed the confidence of the people to a greater extent than Hon. C. P. Dibble." He was president or treasurer of many organizations formed in the county, township or city. Always faithful himself, he had a warm appreciation for the same honest, helpful traits in others. Above all other interests, his home, his church and the schools were dearest to Mr. Dibble.

He bought in 1859 the place now owned by his son, William J. Dibble, and interested himself in making it into the beautiful residence, Oaklawn, which adorns the city. Oaklawn has an historical interest. It was the chosen place for the home of Sidney Ketchum, one of the founders of Marshall. Mr. Ketchum first built a log house on the western side of the large lot; the first boards sawed in the county were used in making a door for the log house. The door was afterwards used in the brick house which Mr. Ketchum erected in 1838. This house was long known and spoken of as the Mansion House. Some years previous to the purchase of the place by Mr. Dibble it was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Pierce. They conducted an excellent Young Ladies' Seminary, a boarding and day school. This, in time, became unnecessary because of the high standing achieved by the public schools. Over thirty oak trees were in the grounds when Mr. Dibble bought the place. Many of them are still standing. Directly in front of the house in the center of Madison street stood an oak tree with a board seat or platform in it, from which, according to tradition, early settlers shot the bears.

The beautiful home early had its sorrows;

"Its pensive memories, as we journey on,
Longings for vanished smiles and voices gone."

Three of the eight children were successively called by death, each one full of promise, on the threshold of manhood and womanhood, Ben in 1862, Louise in 1873 and Walter in 1883. "Not lost but gone before."

Both Mr. and Mrs. Dibble were brought up in the Presbyterian faith. Friendship for the rector, Rev. Montgomery Schuyler, led them, in their early residence in Marshall, to attend the services of Trinity church and soon no other church was home for them. There they found many of their warmest friends and co-workers, all inspired by love and thankfulness to God, to give and do their best for church and community.

Bishop Gillespie gave his appreciation of what Mr. Dibble had been to the church in the following words: "Coming to the parish he long served as warden and in the ministries of an attached layman, we sadly miss Mr. Charles P. Dibble. The genial 'host of the church,' the fre-

Hosted by Google

quent delegate to our conventions, and in all our diocesan life a member of the board of missions, he was identified with us, a layman esteemed and valued. He was an intelligent, earnest churchman, quietly giving his judicious efforts to his own parish and the diocese. Many of the clergy will recall the genial hospitality of his home."

His interest in the schools was well summed up in the following resolutions adopted by the School Board at the time of his death; and some years after he ceased to take an active part in the work of the board. The Hon. Charles P. Dibble was a member of the School Board of the city of Marshall from 1850 to 1879, and an able and efficient member thereof, discharging his duties with such integrity of purpose as to secure the approbation of all our citizens. He was likewise an earnest worker in the cause of education, promoting it by his wise counsel and was ever ready to render aid and assistance in building and fostering this great public interest. To him should be accorded the honor of having largely contributed and made attainable our present high character in matters of education. Faithful to every public trust, eminently honorable, courteous and just in all his relations with his fellow men, in private life he was without spot or blemish. He needs no other memorial than the sentiments of respect now abiding in the memory of the community in which he lived a long and useful life.

"Resolved, that this expression of respect for his memory and regret for his death, on the part of the present School Board, be entered on the record for this evening's proceedings."

Mr. Dibble died on April 22, 1884, while he and Mrs. Dibble were visiting their son, Henry M. in Aiken, South Carolina. His body was brought to his home and after public services in Trinity church, was interred in the family lot, in beautiful Oak Ridge Cemetery.

MELVILLE J. WOOD. The genealogical and biographical facts relating to Melville J. Wood, the prominent fur buyer of Athens, are full of interest. In a general rather than exhaustive outline of these facts, we note that his grandfather, Timothy Wood, who was of English origin, came to Michigan at a very early date, settling here before the war and remaining until the close of his life, at the age of ninety years. Timothy Wood's son, Smoloff Wood, in 1854, brought his two sons, also, to Michigan, making the journey by boat to Detroit and traveling thence by teams to Athens, where they settled on a farm of 80 acres. Smoloff Wood was extensively known as the proprietor of Pine Creek hotel, which was located four miles north of Athens on the stage route, and was one of the most famous hostelries of the state in slave days. Of wide fame were the Pine Creek Hotel dances, which sometimes continued for ten nights in succession. Smoloff Wood was also heavily engaged in cattle buying. His acquaintance was most extensive for those early days and even in that period when fraternal organizations were far less accessible because of the newness of the country, he was a prominent member of the Masonic order.

Melville Wood, who was born in Euclid, Ohio, on March 12, 1845, was ten years of age when the trip was made to Michigan. He was married at the age of 24 to Jennie Strambro, a daughter of Dr. C. M. and Levina (Underwood) Strambro, her father having been one of the earliest medical practitioners of the county. To Melville Wood and his wife, Jennie Strambro Wood, were born three children: C. L., who is at home and in business with his father; Burr, who died in childhood; and Ray, who is also in Athens and engaged in the fur and dairy business. The first Mrs. Melville Wood died in 1900. Mr. Wood was a second time married,

Hosted by Google

in 1902, to Mrs. Emma C. Culp, who was a widow and the daughter of Mr. Brunson.

Although his business interests are the most prominent feature of Mr. Wood's life, it is interesting to know that he served during the last year of the Civil war, although he was then but eighteen years of age. He is still sensitive to the public welfare and although he is not a politician, he has served for some time as deputy sheriff. His nature is eminently social and he holds membership in the Masonic Lodge, No. 220, of Athens; in that of the Elks, No. 131, Battle Creek; and in the organization of the Knights of the Grip.

At the time of his marriage Mr. Wood owned fifty dollars, a horse and a sulky. He is now among the notably well-to-do men of the county. A life-long characteristic of Mr. Wood's has been his fondness for hunting, fishing and trapping, which, during his boyhood days upon the farm, constituted his diversion. Agricultural pursuits, however, were never congenial to Melville Wood, whose commercial instincts craved development and exercise. At the age of twenty-five he initiated his first enterprise of a business nature by going to the village of Athens and establishing a retail shoe store. He was successful to such a degree that ever since that time, in spite of Mr. Wood's other interests, the shoe business has continued and is known today as that of M. J. Wood & Son.

Very soon after he had begun the above mentioned enterprise, he consented to undertake a fur-buying commission for a Detroit firm. This work was at first local, but it was accomplished with such satisfactory results that Mr. Wood was soon urged by Henry A. Newland and Company of Detroit to represent them throughout the entire state during the fur season. The offer was accepted in 1875 and for nearly a quarter of a century, Mr. Wood remained an able and highly appreciated buyer for this house. On the death of the senior member of the firm, Mr. Wood accepted a similar position with the house of Wright Brothers of Boston. His fur negotiations are now carried on regularly in all the larger towns and cities throughout both the southern and the northern peninsulas. The trade of which he has charge is remarkably large and of a high quality. Mr. Wood has furthermore the enviable reputation of being particularly fair and liberal with his shippers. His business is by no means limited by state boundaries, for he receives shipments of fur from points in practically all parts of the United States. He is the largest fur buyer in the state of Michigan, if not in the entire country. Many who do not know him personally are familiar with his name from its frequent appearance in the commercial departments of numerous magazines. When one considers his achievements in this line; his local business mentioned above; not to mention the fact a part of his young manhood was given to the service of his country (with the Twelfth Michigan Infantry, Company H)—his many sided activity and his success therein seem to proclaim him a remarkable man.

The fact that his success in his most conspicuous line has not come easily is indicated in the following excerpt from a very complimentary article published by the Detroit Herald of Commerce, an article which has provided a part of the data for this biography:

"Mr. Wood has had many thrilling and perilous experiences during his life as a traveling man. Once while on a trip to Northern Michigan, at Mackinaw, he was obliged to cross the strait to St. Ignace. The steamboat became frozen in the ice and the party of seven men and one woman started across the strait in a covered stage. As the mercury registered about twenty-five degrees below zero, it was anything but a comfortable ride; and to add to the discomfort of the passengers, when nearly two miles from land, the whole outfit—stage, horses and driver

Hosted by Google

—broke through the ice and went down into the cold, dark water beneath. The occupants of the stage managed to tumble out of the rear end, and paddled for ten feet through the water to solid ice. Every one of them suffered severely from the frost and another stage coach came to their relief as quickly as possible, taking them on to St. Ignace. When the accident occurred, our subject lost his satchel, with all his papers, but the entire party congratulated themselves that more serious results did not follow."

The article above quoted shows a cut of Mr. Wood, holding a beautiful silver-gray foxskin from Ontonagon county, one for which he had paid $100. His list for that season, which was typical, is as follows: "Fitch, 2; civet cat, 9; fisher, 14; otter, 30; lynx, 38; badger, 46; wolf, 39; bear, 51; opossum 87; beaver, 67; housecat, 169; wildcat, 67; deer, 80; sable, 198; fox, 478; raccoon, 3,582; mink, 4,721; skunk, 7,467; muskrat, 49,987."

Considering the significance of the above quoted figures and the fact that the foregoing data are incomplete though interestingly suggestive it can hardly be gainsaid that Mr. Wood is one of the most conspicuous figures in his community and in his especial line a man of national reputation.

CHARLES E. GORHAM. It is no slight distinction that applies to Mr. Gorham in connection with his incumbency of the office of president of the First National Bank of Marshall, for his father, the late Hon. Charles T. Gorham, was the founder of the institution and the same is the oldest in the state as well as one of the most substantial and popular in all southern Michigan. It represents the outgrowth of a private banking business that was established by Charles T. Gorham in the year 1840, and its history has been one of careful and honorable policies and continuous success. The name of the Gorham family has thus been closely identified with banking and other financial interests in Calhoun county for nearly three-fourths of a century, and upon the family record in social and private life during these long years there has rested no semblance of blemish, so that the statement made in the initial sentence of this article is fully justified. Specific mention of the late Hon. Charles T. Gorham is made in a memorial tribute on other pages of this publication, and thus further data concerning the family history are not demanded in the present connection. It may be said, however, that this honored pioneer came to Marshall in 1836, the year prior to the admission of Michigan to statehood, and that he became one of the most honored and influential citizens of this section of the Wolverine commonwealth. In Marshall he first engaged in the mercantile business, in association with Charles M. Brewer, and the firm built up a most prosperous enterprise. He retired in 1840 and engaged in the private banking business, which he conducted until 1865, when he effected the establishing of the first national bank in Calhoun county. He continued as president of the First National Bank of Marshall until two years before his death and was succeeded by his son Seldon H., who retained the presidency until his death, on the 18th of October, 1902, when Charles E., of this review, a younger son, succeeded to the presidency, so that the executive head of the institution from the beginning to the present time has been a member of the Gorham family.

The First National Bank of Marshall bases its operations upon a capital stock of one hundred thousand dollars and that its management at all times has been careful and conservative is evidenced by the fact that it has successfully weathered all financial storms that have swept the country during the long period of its existence—its solvency and

Hosted by Google

policies having at no time been a matter of the least conjecture. It is one of the most substantial and popularly valued financial institutions of Calhoun county, with large deposits and prosperous business. The personnel of its executive corps at the present time is as here noted: Charles E. Gorham, president; Frank A. Stuart, vice president; Charles H. Billings, cashier; and Glenn E. Grant, assistant cashier. In addition to the president, vice president and cashier the directorate of the bank includes Samuel F. Dobbins, George W. Leedle, Charles E. Gauss, and James L. Dobbins.

Charles E. Gorham was born in the city of Marshall, Michigan, on the 5th of September, 1855, and here acquired his early educational discipline in the public schools, after which he passed five years in Europe, where he availed himself of the advantages of the best of educational institutions. In 1877 he became messenger in the First National Bank of Marshall, and he was soon promoted to the position of teller, from which he was later advanced to that of assistant cashier. Upon the death of Norris J. Frink he was elected cashier of the bank, and of this office he continued the able and popular incumbent until the death of his elder brother, Seldon H., in 1902, when he was elected to succeed the latter in his present office of president. His entire business career has thus been one of close identification with this one institution, and in his several executive capacities he has done much to further its success and prestige. He is recognized as one of the able and representative factors in banking operations in southern Michigan and in his home city and county has ever maintained secure vantage ground in popular confidence and esteem. He and his family reside in the beautiful old Gorham homestead, comprising a stately house erected by his father and surrounded by large grounds with abundance of fine shade trees and shrubbery.

In politics, though never an aspirant for public office, Mr. Gorham gives unqualified allegiance to the Republican party, and he is affiliated with St. Albans Lodge, No. 20, Free and Accepted Masons; Lafayette Chapter, No. 4, Royal Arch Masons; and Marshall Commandery, No. 17, Knights Templars, all in his home city, as well as with Moslem Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, in the city of Detroit.

On the 3d of June, 1885, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Gorham to Miss Florence E. Walton, who was born at Rockford, Illinois, and whose father, Rev. J. E. Walton, was rector of Trinity church, Protestant Episcopal, in Marshall, at the time of her marriage, her father having been one of the distinguished members of the clergy of his church in Michigan for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Gorham became the parents of two daughters, the elder of whom, Marion W. died on the 7th of May, 1904, at the age of eighteen years, and the younger of whom, Gail, is a member of the class of 1912 in Mount Vernon Seminary, at Washington, D. C.

Levi S. Warren, attorney at law of Albion, Michigan, is an enterprising citizen, born in the village of Fenton, Genesee county, Michigan, on March 5, 1844. He is the son of Samuel N. Warren and Anna K. (West) Warren, natives of Vermont and Kentucky, respectively. The parents of Mr. Warren were among the very early settlers of Michigan, the father coming from Vermont and locating in Oakland county, Michigan, in 1827. The mother came from Kentucky with her parents and settled in the same county in 1829, where they were married on December 31, 1834. Samuel N. Warren died in Ann Arbor in his ninety-

Hosted by Google

second year and the mother in her ninetieth year. The great-grandsire of the subject, David Warren, served in the War of the Revolution.

Levi S. Warren acquired his education in the city of Flint and in the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, which he entered in September, 1862, enrolling in the literary department. He remained at his studies until the holiday vacation when he returned home and on January 4, 1863, he enlisted in Company F, of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry, Col. Robert G. Minty commanding the regiment. Mr. Warren was sent with his regiment to Tennessee and later to Alabama, and he served until March, 1865, taking part in such engagements with the enemy as his regiment participated in. He was wounded at Kingston, Georgia, by a gun shot through the left leg. In March, 1865, he received an honorable discharge and returned to Flint, Michigan. In that city he read law under Hon. Josiah Turner, Circuit Judge, with Hon. Charles D. Long, late Supreme Judge, and was admitted to the bar in Genesee county in October, 1877, and there began practice, continuing until March, 1891, when he removed to Albion, here he opened an office and engaged in the real estate business until 1900. In that year he was appointed special examiner of the pension bureau and remained in that work until August, 1907, when he resigned his position and returned to Albion, Michigan, his home.

Mr. Warren was married to Mary A. Garrison, his present wife, in the Episcopal church at Marshall, Michigan, on April 19, 1866. Their only child, Eleanor Anna Warren, was born at Flint, Michigan, March 9, 1869, and died August 8, 1886. She is buried in the family lot at Glenwood cemetery, in Flint. Mr. Warren, being in moderately good circumstances, gives but a portion of his time to the duties of his office, and and his evenings are spent in his library,—one of the best selected private libraries in the city of Albion.

Hon. Samuel Dickie, president of Albion College, and prominent in this section of the state as an educator and strong temperance advocate, has been a resident of the state of Michigan since he was a boy of seven. He is a Canadian by birth, born in Canada, on June 6, 1851, and the son of William and Jane (McNabb) Dickie, both natives of Scotland. The father was born at the home of the poet, Robert Burns, in Mauchlin, Scotland, while the mother was born in Glasgow. In early life the family made their way to Canada, there locating, and in 1858 they removed to Lansing, Michigan, where they passed the remainder of their lives.

In the public schools of Lansing Samuel Dickie received the foundation of his education, and in 1868, when he was seventeen years of age, he entered Albion College, from which institution he was graduated in 1872 with the degree of M. S. For four years thereafter the young man was employed as superintendent of the schools of Hastings, Michigan, and from 1877 to 1888 he occupied the chair of astronomy and physics at his Alma Mater. He won great popularity as an instructor, and his influence with the student body who sat under his teaching was particularly strong. In 1901 he was made president of the institution, and he has since retained that important position, in every way justifying the wisdom of the choice of the board of trustees.

When Dr. Dickie reached his majority in 1872 and came to the choosing of his political faith, he was turned toward the prohibition party, as the result of the resolution incorporated as the sixteenth plank of the Republican platform. Since that time Dr. Dickie has given staunch allegiance to the interests of the Prohibition party and has voted with it on all state and national issues. During the session of the national Prohibition convention, held in 1884, he occupied the chair, and

Hosted by Google

two years later he was the Prohibition candidate of Michigan, polling a vote one third larger than that of St. John as presidential candidate two years before. In the spring of 1887 he conducted the campaign on the issue of placing an amendment in the constitution of Michigan to prohibit the manufacture and sale of liquor in the state. He won unusual prominence of a national order in that campaign, although the amendment was defeated, and the party showed its appreciation by electing him chairman of the national committee of the party, to succeed John B. Finch, at the Chicago convention held in November, 1887. For five years he maintained his headquarters in New York city, but in 1893 removed to his home in Albion, where he has since continued to reside, his duties as an educator occupying a goodly share of his attention.

Dr. Dickie was married on December 22, 1872, to Mary Brockway, a daughter of Rev. William H. Brockway, of Albion. Four children were born to them: Clarissa, Ada, Mary and Brockway.

HOMER C. BLAIR, president of the Commercial & Savings Bank of Albion, Michigan, is a native son of Michigan, born in the town of Tompkins, Jackson county, this state, on January 27, 1872. He is the son of James and Mary (Elliott) Blair, the mother being a native of Michigan and the father of Ohio. They settled in Jackson county in 1840, and there lived rural lives, and in the town of Tompkins, James Blair was known for one of the most extensive wheat and stock growers in his district. He died in 1906, while his widow yet survives and makes her home at Leslie, Michigan.

Homer C. Blair was educated in the high school in Leslie and later entered the University of Michigan, from which he was graduated in the department of pharmaceutics. In 1894 he came to Albion and was here employed by the drug firm of Vaughan & Thomison, remaining thus engaged for a period of three years. At the end of that time he purchased the stock of White & Beebe in the drug business and succeeded to their established trade. He continued to be thus associated until 1912, a period of fifteen years, and he recently disposed of his stock to L. C. Van Gorden, Mr. Blair retiring from the business. On July 1, 1912, he was elected president of the Commercial & Savings Bank of Albion, and is actively interested in the affairs of that institution.

In 1899 Mr. Blair married Miss Eleanor Hawkins, of Flint, Michigan, and one daughter, A. Elizabeth, has been born to them.

Mr. Blair is known for one of the intelligent, public-spirited men of Albion and a valuable citizen in every respect. He was for six years a secretary of the Board of Education and is now president of the board. In addition to his other business interests, Mr. Blair is manager of the Blair homestead farm for the estate. Fraternally, Mr. Blair is prominent in Masonry, being a member of Murat Lodge, No. 14, A. F. & A. M., Albion Chapter No. 32, R. A. M., Marshall Commandery No. 16, Marshall Council R. S. M., Moslem Temple of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of Detroit, and also a member of the Knights of Pythias.

ORLANDO CHARLES GALE. The passing of Orlando Charles Gale on February 29, 1912, deprived Albion of one of her oldest and most esteemed citizens, as well as one of her most prominent business men and a founder of the Gale Manufacturing Company, one of the giant agricultural implement concerns of the state. Mr. Gale's death, which occurred at the home of his son, O. Harry Gale, on West Mulberry street, was not entirely unexpected, as he had been gradually failing since a year ago last July, when he suffered a severe stroke of paralysis, that

Hosted by Google

misfortune being followed by a state of invalidism. His mind, however, was entirely unaffected by the stroke, and he was conscious up to the hour of his passing.

In an obituary notice published at the death of Mr. Gale, a complete and quite detailed account of his life is given. This notice is so relevant to the matter in hand that it is here quoted almost verbatim, in lieu of other material, perhaps less pertinent to the subject:

"Orlando Charles Gale was born in L'Acadie, Lower Canada, on June 3, 1823. He was the son of George and Harriet Gale, natives of Vermont. The father had taken a contract to build fanning mills in Canada which required some three years, the family moving there, and it was while thus established that Orlando was born. The family returned to Barre, Vermont, and took a steamboat across Lake Champlain to White Hall. From there they went via the Erie Canal to Royalton, six miles east of Lockport, a journey of two weeks. They wintered there until the first lake boats were starting west in the spring to Detroit, and it was while coming up Lake Erie with his family that the father's trunk was opened and some seven hundred dollars—all the money they owned, was stolen. Unable to travel further without means, they stopped at Dearborn for three months, the father taking charge of a gang of men and teams getting out ties for the Michigan Central railroad then being built out of Detroit. This was in the spring of 1836.

They then started for Moscow by team. They experienced great difficulty in getting through the muddy roads to Ypsilanti, having to unload several times, and were helped out of the mud more than once by hitching on an ox team whenever one chanced to come along. It took them about a week to reach Moscow.

Orlando Charles Gale worked on his father's farm and attended school between seasons, walking three and a half miles to and from the select school which he attended in winter. In 1843 the young man entered into a partnership with his father and they began the manufacture of plows. He drove to Mishawaka, Indiana, one hundred and fifty miles distant, for his pig iron and to Toledo, seventy-five miles, for his coal. At one time he was able to get only half a ton of coal in the city and it was almost impossible to get through the mud in the middle of the city with even this size of load.

George Gale, the father, retired from the business in 1851, going to California, and his son, Orlando Charles, conducted the business alone until 1853, when he moved his family, consisting of a wife and three children, to Jonesville, where he took in his brother, N. Brooks Gale, as a partner. Almost three years later Brooks sold his interest to Augustus J. Gale. The firm name remained O. C. & A. J. Gale till 1861, when O. C. sold his interest to Horatio Gale and moved to Albion, buying out the hardware establishment of his brother, Henry Gale, which had been established by their father, George Gale, in 1856.

In 1864 A. J. and Horatio Gale sold out their factory in Jonesville and with a brother-in-law, Elliot W. Hollingsworth, came to Albion, entering a co-partnership with O. C. Gale, in the hardware business and starting a small factory, using a building formerly belonging to Lane & Porter, at the corner of Cass & Superior streets on the east side of Superior street. The firm was known as O. C. Gale & Company. Two years later they built a factory where the Kessler & Parker block now stands, which extended through to Clinton street.

In 1874 a stock company was organized, known as the Gale Manufacturing Company, which is today one of Albion's principal industries. While still interested in the hardware store, Mr. Gale retained a stock

Hosted by Google

in the factory. He and E. W. Hollingsworth owned the store at this time which they conducted until 1876, when Mr. Gale sold out to Mr. Hollingsworth. At this time in his life Mr. Gale spent a great portion of his time in Minneapolis, Minnesota, until May, 1880, when he again purchased the hardware store at Albion and remained there until October, 1890, when he sold out to his sons, E. C. and O. H. Gale, who have ever since continued to operate the business.

For many years Mr. Gale was a member of the Leisure Hour Club, and one of his greatest pleasures was in gathering a number of his friends about him at the club and talking over the early days in Albion.

In 1847 Mr. Gale married Adeline C. Smith of Hanover, Michigan, who passed away in 1890. They became the parents of eight children, six of whom yet survive. They are: Mrs. Joseph King, of Homer, Michigan; George H. Gale of Chicago; Alpheus S. Gale of Los Angeles; Elliot C. Gale, of Albion; Mrs. Addie Butt, of Los Angeles, and O. Harry Gale of Albion. Charles and Hattie died in childhood. Mr. Gale is also survived by one brother, A. J. Gale, of Los Angeles, deceased, who for many years was identified with the business activities of this city.

O. HARRY GALE is one of the leading hardware merchants of Albion, in which city he was born on the old Gale homestead, November 28, 1870. He is the son of Orlando C. and Adeline (Smith) Gale, the former of whom died on February 24, 1912, and the latter on January 22, 1900. Orlando C. Gale was one of Albion's oldest and most respected citizens. He was one of the founders of the present Gale Manufacturing Company, the city's giant implement concern. Mr. Gale's life was one pregnant with the elements of all those qualities that go to make for success in this world, and he was one of those men who rose from a penniless youth to a position of acknowledged business power and success. Orlando C. Gale was born in L'Acadie, Lower Canada, June 3, 1823. He was the son of George and Harriet Gale, whose home was in Barre, Vermont, and of his life and work a more complete sketch will be found elsewhere in this volume.

O. Harry Gale was educated in the public and high school in Albion, also attended Albion Commercial College. Upon leaving school he entered the hardware store of his father, and there he acquired a thorough knowledge of the hardware business. His store is situated in the business part of Superior street, the building being a three story affair, 24x115 feet, all floors being occupied in the operation of Mr. Gale's business, which is one of the oldest hardware stores in Albion. Mr. Gale carries a large and varied stock, so as to enable him to meet every demand of his many customers. From his long acquaintance and his continued years of business dealings he has become well and favorably known and is in the enjoyment of a prosperous business.

In 1893 Mr. Gale married Miss Gertrude Brown of Norwalk, Ohio. She is a native of Indiana and a daughter of G. Brown, an old and highly respected citizen of his native place. Mrs. Gale was educated at Angola high school, after which she entered Albion College and was graduated from the art department of that institution. Her father, Germ Brown, was editor of the *Steuben County Republican* for a number of years and was widely known in that connection.

Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gale: Robert G., Richard E. and Grace Josephine. Mr. Gale is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and the Woodmen of the World in a fraternal way, and in line with his business is affiliated with the Michigan State Dealers' Hard-

Hosted by Google

ware Association, of which he was elected president in 1910. Mr. Gale is also a member of the National Hardware Association and a member of the A. F. & A. M. of Albion, Murat Lodge.

At the present time Mr. Gale is occupying the old Gale homestead, a substantial brick residence, with extensive grounds, ornamented with native oaks, and one of the fine places of the city. He is recognized in Albion as one of the intelligent enterprising and thorough business men of the city, and a man of quiet and domestic inclinations which have won him a most admirable reputation wherever he is known.

FRED W. SCHUMACHER. Among the leading business men of Albion, Fred W. Schumacher, as one of the intelligent, reliable and active workers in the city, deserves especial mention in this historical and biographical work. He is a member of the Albion Lumber Company, and is in active charge of the brick and mason work for the concern, in which capacity he is well qualified to act by reason of his early training and his natural bent for the business.

Mr. Schumacher was born in Prussia, in March, 1868, and is the son of Carl and Frederica (Raether) Schumacher, both of whom emigrated to this country in 1869, and both died in Albion, the father on April 17, 1901, having reached a fine old age. Their son, the subject of this review, received his early education in the schools of Albion. His father, who was a stone mason by trade, taught him that business, and for some years he was thus employed. In 1888 he formed a partnership with his brother, Carl A., under the firm name of Schumacher Brothers, and they engaged in the grocery business, continuing until 1892. In that year Mr. Schumacher disposed of his interests and thereupon worked at his trade, and in 1907 became connected with the Albion Lumber Company as a representative in charge of their outside work, in the line of mason and brick work. He prospered in this connection, his skill and ingenuity, together with his marked ability in the building line, greatly facilitating the business of the company. He became a stockholder of the Albion Lumber Company. This concern has long been one of the largest of its kind in Calhoun county, and does an ever increasing business in lumber and building materials of all kinds. They have built hundreds of houses in the city of Albion alone, and their operations have also extended into the adjoining towns. At the time of the flood in 1908, when all the bridges spanning the Kalamazoo river were swept away in the rushing torrent, this company was given the contract to rebuild all the bridges, the work being done under the supervision and management of Mr. Schumacher,—a splendid testimonial to his reputation as a builder. Mr. Schumacher has become the owner of a goodly portion of valuable city property, among which is the realty formerly the Bishop property. In 1912 he became the owner of this block, and in addition to repairing a large brick building which already stood upon the premises he has erected other fine brick structures to cover the entire block.

In 1889, Mr. Schumacher married Miss Ida Luedtke of Calhoun county, her father being an early settler. Two children have been born to them,—Minnie, born in 1891, and Albert F., born in 1895.

Mr. Schumacher has served his city in a number of public capacities, being elected alderman of the Second ward in 1896, and city marshal in 1900, in both of which positions he gave faithful service, thus further proving his citizenship to be of the most approved order. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, with regard to his fraternal affiliations, and is a member of the German church of Albion.

Hosted by Google

BENJAMIN D. BROWN, a stock holder and director in the Malleable Iron Company of Albion, Michigan, is one of the rapidly advancing young men of business in the city. He is a native son of the state, county and city, born in Albion on February 12, 1883, and his parents were John G. and Ida R. (Fairbanks) Brown, natives of New York state and Michigan, respectively.

John G. Brown was born in New York state on June 7, 1850, and came to Michigan as a child of five years. The family located in Battle Creek first, and later came to Albion, where his parents bought a lot on the corner of Berrien and Michigan avenues, a property which has remained in the family since then to the present time, and has represented the location of the family home. While in Battle Creek John Brown attended Olivet College for a time and after coming to Albion was graduated from the Albion College with the class of '71. Two years later he was graduated from the University of Michigan in pharmacy, after which he located in the drug business in Albion, and was thus engaged for years. In 1893 the Commercial Savings Bank was founded and Mr. Brown was elected its first president. He retained that position from the time of the founding of the bank up to his death in 1909, with the exception of one year. Mr. Brown was interested in the Albion Malleable Iron Company, and was a stock holder and director in that concern. Always a good citizen, the city schools of Albion came in for a generous share of his attention, and for many years he served as treasurer of the school board. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity, affiliating with Murat Lodge No. 14, A. F. & A. M., Albion Chapter No. 32, R. A. M., and Albion Council No. 57, R. & S. M. His death, which occurred in November, 1909, was a distinct loss to the city and his passing was felt in many avenues of life in the community which had represented his home for so many years.

Benjamin D. Brown entered the Albion College immediately after his graduating from the Albion high school. Upon the completion of his college course he assisted his father in the work of the bank, and also took an interest in the operations of the Malleable Iron Works, in which he eventually became a stockholder and director, and is actively engaged in work in the different departments. Mr. Brown is a director in the Union Steel Company, and a director in the Commercial Savings Bank of Albion, in all of which connections he has amply demonstrated his ability as a business man of the progressive and enterprising class. He is unmarried.

OTTO H. STECKER is general manager of the Commonwealth Power Company, with offices in Albion, Michigan. He was born in the city of Albion on February 19, 1878, and is a son of August and Wilhelmina (Stancranff) Stecker, both natives of Germany. In 1861 the family emigrated to the United States, landing in the city of New York, coming thence direct to Michigan. They lived in Parma four years then located in Albion, on Perry street, and there they made their home until the death of the father in 1882. His widow still survives and makes her home in the city.

Otto H. received his early schooling in North Ward school and in the Albion high school, after which he studied in the International Correspondence School. He secured employment in the Albion Electric Light Company's offices where he remained for five years, after which he was connected with the Albion Buggy Company. He was later engaged in the capacity of chief engineer by the Albion Milling Company, remaining thus for seven years. In 1909 he became manager

Hosted by Google

of the Commonwealth Power Company at Grand Ledge, soon after being transferred to Albion, where he is in charge of the plant of the Commonwealth Power Company.

Mr. Stecker is a member of the Masonic fraternity, affiliating with Lodge No. 14, A. F. & A. M., and with Albion Chapter, R. A. M., as well as the Council. He and his family are members of the German church. He is a Republican, but has never held office.

In 1906 Mr. Stecker was united in marriage with Miss Ruth Austin, a daughter of Alonza Austin, who has been for thirty years an engineer on the M. C. R. R. One son, Austin Stecker, has been born to them.

WILLARD R. NOYES, as a member of the firm known as the Albion Milling Company, has won a prominence in the business life of Albion that has placed him in the front ranks of the enterprising men of the city, while his service as city clerk since 1906 has further marked him as a citizen of unusual order and genuine worth. He is a native son of Michigan, born in Hillsdale county in the village of North Adams, in February, 1872, and is the son of Franklin and Clara T. (Robison) Noyes, both native New Yorkers and among the early pioneers to Michigan.

Franklin Noyes, the father of Willard R., was a doctor and for many years was engaged in the practice of his profession in the vicinity of Hillsdale county. He was a close friend and a classmate of Dr. Marshall of Marshall, Michigan, both having graduated from the Cleveland Medical College. Dr. Noyes died in 1906 at North Adams, and his widow yet survives him, and makes her home in Albion. Dr. Noyes commanded a far reaching practice in his district, and was a man universally respected and esteemed.

Willard R. Noyes acquired his early education in the schools of North Adams, and following his high school days he went to Indiana, where he was employed by the Lake Shore Railroad from 1889 to 1898, as freight clerk and operator, and returning to Michigan in the latter year, became bookkeeper for the Albion Milling Company. Thus began an association which in 1906 resulted in him becoming a member of the firm, as the partner of John Haag, under the firm name of Haag & Noyes, a partnership which has since continued. The office and place of business of the firm is in the old stone mill located on the banks of the Kalamazoo. This old landmark was erected as long ago as 1845, and yet remains in a passing good state of preservation. The firm handles flour, feed, grain and seeds, and in addition to its city trade, does an extensive business with the farming interests far and near.

In 1897 Mr. Noyes married Nellie Groff, a daughter of John W. Groff, an old and highly respected citizen of Albion. Mr. Noyes is a member of the Knights of Pythias, No. 57, Albion Lodge, and the F. O. E., but maintains no other fraternal relations.

JOHN N. HAAG is a member of the firm of Noyes & Haag, dealers in flour, feed and grain, in Albion, Michigan. He has been identified with the business interests of the city since 1891, his connection at that time being represented by association with William Knickerbocker, for many years a miller of Albion. Since 1906 Mr. Haag has been a member of the partnership just referred to, doing business under the name of the Albion Milling Company, and they have since that time built up a large business in the way of buying and shipping flour, grain and feed.

Born in Bavaria, Germany, December 25, 1856, John N. Haag is the son of Roy and Elizabeth (Haag) Haag. He received his education in his native land, entering school when he was six years old and con-

Hosted by Google

tinuing until his thirteenth year. After leaving off his studies he worked on the farm with his father until the autumn of 1871, when he emigrated to the United States, and coming direct from New York city to Marshall county, Indiana. He located at Plymouth, remaining there during a year, and then coming to Flowerfield, Michigan, where he was employed in a flouring mill. For six years Mr. Haag continued there, determined to master the business, and when he emerged from his connection with that concern, he was a competent and experienced miller. In 1891 he came to Albion, as previously mentioned, and here he secured employment in the old stone mill, then operated by William Knickerbocker. This mill, which is one of the old landmarks of Albion, was built in 1845, and it is still standing, in an excellent state of preservation, having witnessed many changes in the methods of milling in these years of its active life.

In 1906 Mr. Haag formed a partnership with W. R. Noyes, the firm name being the Albion Milling Company, and in the few years that have elapsed then they have been able to build up a most excellent business in buying and shipping the products in which they deal, and enjoy a splendid reputation for high grade products and despatch in handling the same.

In 1879 Mr. Haag married Miss Elizabeth Russell, the daughter of Thomas and Mary (Scott) Russell, of Scotland. One son has been born to them,—Roy Russell Haag, a graduate of the Albion high school and of Albion College. He is now employed as principal of the Ludington high school, at Ludington Lake, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Haag are members of the First Presbyterian church, and he is a member of Albion Lodge No. 60, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is the owner of a substantial home on Porter street, and is regarded as one of the enterprising and progressive business men of the city.

MARCUS M. CALKINS. One of the prominent business men who have been identified with the best interests of Albion, Michigan, for many years is Marcus M. Calkins, wholesale dealer in lumber. He has been engaged in that business since his young manhood, his first connection in that respect being in Coldwater, Branch county, Michigan, where he was employed in a more or less humble capacity, and he has risen by steady stages to the present high place he occupies in the lumber interests of his community.

Born in Geauga county, Ohio, May 14, 1842, Marcus M. Calkins is the son of Moses V. and Almira (Hudson) Calkins. The father was a native of Vermont and the mother of Ohio, and the family were among the pioneer settlers of Geauga county, Ohio. For many years Moses V. Calkins was engaged in the mercantile and farming business, and in 1849 they removed to Branch county, Michigan, where he became interested in the manufacture of lumber, and operated a number of mills throughout the county. He eventually became one of the most prosperous lumbermen of the county and was prominently known throughout that section of the state. He died in Coldwater, Michigan, in March, 1890, his widow surviving him for some years.

Marcus M. Calkins acquired his early education in the schools of Geauga county, Ohio, his education extending through the curriculum of the school. He then became associated with his father in the lumber business, remaining with him until he attained his majority, and in that time gaining a most valuable insight into the various corners of the lumber business, and becoming sufficiently familiar with it to wish to continue in the same business. He went to Big Rapids, Michigan, upon

Hosted by Google

severing his connection with his father, and there became a member of the Fitch Phelps Lumber Company. Some little time thereafter he entered the business on his own responsibility and began shipping lumber and logs. This business he carried on for a matter of fifteen years, and his operations covered a large number of states. In 1898 he located in Albion, where he has since continued to reside, and where he has large wholesale lumber interests which require his attention.

In 1869 Mr. Calkins married Miss Cornelia Decker of Branch county. She is the daughter of Lawrence Decker, an old resident who came to Branch county in 1837. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Calkins: Ethel J., now a widow, and Kate L., who lives in Port Arthur, Texas. Mr. Calkins and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The family home is maintained on East Porter street, and is one of the fine modern residences of the city.

WILLIAM S. POTTER, pastor of the Presbyterian church of Battle Creek, Michigan, has perhaps the widest acquaintance and can number more people as his friends than can any other man in the city of Battle Creek or in Calhoun county. He has been pastor of the Battle Creek church for twenty-three years, and since he is a man of broad views and is in sympathy with any religious movement in so far as it is beneficial to the people, he has gained many and warm friends and his personal popularity has had a great deal to do with his success as a minister.

William S. Potter was born at State Bridge, Oneida county, New York, on the 30th of December, 1850. He received his first education in the district school from which he entered the Verona high school and then Whitestown Academy. Having completed the course at the latter place he then entered Hamilton College, and upon determining to enter the ministry, matriculated at Auburn Theological Seminary, from which he was graduated.

The Reverend Mr. Potter was ordained to the ministry of the Presbyterian church and has had three pastorates since that time. His ordination took place at Auburn, New York, in May, 1878, and from 1878 until 1884 he was located at Petoskey, Michigan. In 1884 he was transferred to Ionia, Michigan, and here he remained until 1888 when he came to Battle Creek.

He was very active during his residence in Petoskey in the endeavor to build up a good school system and was a member of the school board as well as the incumbent of the office which is now known as the office of county commissioner of schools. A short time before his settling in Battle Creek Rev. Potter made an extensive tour of Europe, and in 1907 he took a Mediterranean trip, visiting the Holy Land, Egypt and other places in Africa, Turkey, Greece, the south of France, Malta, and the many other places in that part of the world where history has been made.

When he came to take charge of the Battle Creek church, he found it with a membership of one hundred and seventy-five. How faithfully he worked and how successful were his labors may be seen by the fact that when he resigned in August 18, 1911, to take a much needed rest he left a church membership roll of seven hundred members. During this time a new church building was erected and was dedicated in February, 1896.

In addition to the work of his pastorate, Mr. Potter has always taken an active part in the affairs of the community. How busy his pastoral life has been may be imagined from the bare fact that he has officiated at sixteen hundred weddings and about eighteen hundred funerals dur-

Hosted by Google

ing his residence in Battle Creek. He was the father of the Young Men's Christian Association, having taken measures soon after his arrival to secure this institution for the city, and for a number of years he was its president.

The broad mindedness which Mr. Potter has always displayed, and the friendship which he has for the churches and the work of other denominations has won him the highest regard of the whole city, and now that he is no longer in active work, his presence is greatly missed. Mr. Potter does not consider himself as having permanently retired but may after a while take another pastorate.

WILLIAM J. MCFADDEN. As long as our republic endures will the American nation owe a debt of gratitude and honor to the brave "boys in blue" who went forth in defense of the integrity of the nation at the climacteric period of the Civil war. One of the gallant and loyal soldiers contributed to this conflict by Calhoun county is William J. McFadden, who has here maintained his home for nearly sixty years and who is now living retired in the city of Marshall, secure in the high regard of all who know him and numbered among the sterling pioneer citizens of the county. He was for many years actively engaged in agricultural pursuits and developed one of the valuable farms of the county. He came to America as a mere boy and dependent upon his own resources in making his way in the world. He faced the problem with the same self-reliance, vigor and earnestness that characterized his service as a soldier of the republic, and with the passing of years he achieved define and worthy success as a member of the world's noble army of productive workers. Now venerable in years and surrounded by friends who are tried and true, he finds the gracious evening of his life pleasing in environment and associations, and his status in the community is such as to entitle him to special recognition in this publication.

Mr. McFadden was born in county Antrim, Ireland, on the 10th of April, 1836, and is a son of Arthur and Sarah Jane McFadden, both of whom passed their entire lives in the fair old Emerald Isle.

William J. McFadden is indebted to the schools of his native land for his early educational discipline, and at the age of sixteen years he severed the ties that bound him to home and native land and courageously set forth to seek his fortunes in America. He landed in the port of the national metropolis and remained in the state of New York about three years, at the expiration of which he came to Michigan and made Calhoun county his destination. He secured employment on the farm of a Mr. Aldrich, and with the passing of the years he so ordered his efforts and conserved his resources that he was enabled to purchase and develop an excellent farm, of one hundred and fourteen acres. To this he added until he became the owner of an estate of two hundred and eleven acres, and this he still retains in his possession. He was long numbered among the enterprising farmers and stock-growers of the county and through his own ability and labors he achieved independence and definite prosperity. In 1895 he laid aside the cares and responsibilities that had so long engrossed his attention, and removed from his old homestead to a pleasant residence in the city of Marshall, where he has since lived retired, and where he and his devoted wife are enjoying the just recompense of former endeavors.

In the meanwhile Mr. McFadden had responded to the call of higher duty, when the integrity of the nation was menaced by armed rebellion. He subordinated all personal interests to go forth in defense of the Union, and well did he serve the country of his adoption—a valiant and loyal soldier who took part in many sanguinary conflicts on the battle

Hosted by Google

fields of the south. In August, 1861, Mr. McFadden enlisted as a private in Company I, Twentieth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, with which he proceeded to the city of Washington and which was forthwith assigned to the Army of the Potomac. He took part in virtually all of the engagements in which his regiment was involved, including a number of the most important battles marking the progress of the great internecine conflict, and he continued in active service until he received his honorable discharge. The ranks of those who thus fought for the nation's integrity are fast becoming depleted by the one invincible foe of mankind, but Mr. McFadden continues to take a deep interest in his old comrades, as is shown by his affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic, in his home city. The year 1867 bore record of the marriage of Mr. McFadden to Miss Josephine Brown. He and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

JESSE HUGGETT. The ascent from poverty and obscurity to a comfortable worldly condition and consequence among men is a steep and rugged one, beset with many obstacles and bestrewn with difficulties until a commanding height is attained, when Fate seems to withdraw her grudge and assist the resolute climber who has thus far challenged her to combat and contested with her courageously and successfully. But it is one that millions in this country have made and many millions have tried to make and failed in the attempt.

Jesse Huggett, one of the enterprising and progressive farmers of Penfield township in this county has succeeded in making this ascent, and it is altogether to his credit that his success is due to nothing but his own pluck, endurance and persistency. He is a native of England, born on March 8, 1832, and a son of Thomas and Mary (Wickem) Huggett, also natives of England, the former born in 1803 and the latter in 1821. They were married in that country and came to the United States in 1836, locating near Rochester, New York.

Although they seemed to be rather far West then, as they were for that day, there was a growing allurement for them in the promise of the wilds beyond them in the wake of the setting sun, and in 1854 they came to Michigan and Calhoun county, finding a new home in Convis township. Here they passed the remainder of their days, the mother dying in 1864 and the father in 1878. The father was a blacksmith and wrought at his trade in his native land and during many years in this country. Finally he bought a farm in this county, on which he was living at the time of his death.

Twelve children were born of their union, Jesse being the fifth in the order of birth, and eight besides him being now alive. The father was a Democrat in political faith and activity, and both parents belonged to the Episcopal church, of which they were devout and consistent adherents. He was successful in his efforts for advancement, and by industry at his forge and on his farm accumulated a comfortable estate for his time and surroundings, exercising good judgment in the management of his affairs. Jesse Huggett obtained his education in the district schools, and began life for himself as a farmer after it was completed as far as his opportunities allowed him to go. He also operated a threshing outfit for a few years in connection with his farming operations. He started, however, as a farm hand, working by the month for three years and saving his earnings with a view to the start on a farm of his own, as indicated above. He also worked on a canal in New York for one year, the great Erie canal, that mighty intenal waterway that has done so much for the development and improvement of the interior of New York state.

Hosted by Google

Mr. Huggett bought his first farm in 1856, the one on which he now lives. It comprises eighty-five acres, and when he bought it was without improvements of any kind. He erected all the buildings and fences and made all the other improvements on this farm, and by his energy, thrift and good management it has been transformed into a very productive and valuable one. Here he has conducted general farming operations with enterprise and skill for over half a century, and to such good purpose that he has been enabled, through what he has won from its fruitful soil, to buy another farm of sixty-five acres in a different location, and this also is under his direct control in its cultivation and everything that pertains to it.

Mr. Huggett was married in 1856 to Miss Fannie Calender, a daughter of Dewey S. Calender, an early settler in Michigan and Calhoun county, having as part of the land on which he located the farm now owned and occupied by Mr. Huggett. He afterward moved to Wisconsin, where he died. Mr. and Mrs. Huggett have had six children, five of whom are living: William, who is a resident of Convis township; Mary Frances, who married Frank Avery, and with him has her home in Battle Creek; George, who died a number of years ago; Maud, who is the wife of Eric Southerland, her second husband, whom she married after the death of Daniel Greinman, her first, and now is a resident of North Dakota; Henry, who lives on a farm in Convis township, and Millie, who is the wife of Abraham Walkinshaw.

Mrs. Huggett is a member of the Baptist church, which her husband also attends. He is a Republican in politics, and has served on the school board and as road commissioner. He has always been practically and serviceably interested in the welfare of his township and county and done all he could to promote it. The people around him and throughout the county esteem him highly and look upon him as one of their most useful, upright, enterprising and estimable citizens.

JAMES LANE. Michigan was especially fortunate in having been first settled by men of resolution, stability and true personal worth and integrity. Noteworthy among the earlier pioneers of Calhoun county was James Lane, who not only cleared and improved a good farm in Convis, but became widely known as a prosperous and popular tavern keeper. A native of England, he was born, in 1807, at Great Cumberton, Worcestershire, his parents being then in humble circumstances.

When a small lad of twelve years, James Lane began hustling for himself, a situation having been secured for him with Rev. Dr. Haggitt, of Pershore, Worcestershire, with whom he remained for quite awhile, being employed in different capacities, the last five years of the time serving as butler. In 1833 Mr. Lane took unto himself a wife, marrying Sarah Finch, of Forrest Row, county Sussex, England, and located in London, where he embarked in business as a milk dealer. His health becoming impaired, and his prospects for, very materially adding to his finances being not very encouraging, Mr. Lane determined to try the hazard of fortunes in the New World, and sailed with his wife to New York. Pushing his way onward from the Atlantic coast to Michigan, he arrived in Marshall, Calhoun county, November 5, 1835. Looking about for a favorable place in which to invest his cash capital of sixty-two pounds, he bought seventy-four and three-fourths acres of land in section twenty-seven, Convis, and there began the pioneer task of clearing and improving a farm. Very soon after locating there, Mr. Lone opened a tavern, and as "mine host" acquired an enviable reputation among the traveling public, and formed the acquaintance of many prominent men, who subsequently became his warm friends. As a

Hosted by Google

farmer and inn keeper he met with satisfactory success, accumulating a fair share of this world's goods ere his death, which occurred August 4, 1880.

Mr. and Mrs. Lane became the parents of five children, all of whom grew to years of maturity, as follows: Thomas, born in London, England, October 30, 1834, married, December 27, 1856, Marie L. Alton; Charles James, born June 27, 1837, on the home farm in Convis, married, in June, 1869, Cornelia Cook, and is now living in Marshall, retired from his long and successful career as a physician and surgeon; Caroline, born August 31, 1840, became the wife of Henry Potter, of Convis, their marriage having been celebrated December 9, 1859; Edward F., born November 24, 1842, married, in May, 1871, Milly Baldwin; and William A., born March 31, 1845, married, August 23, 1870, Jennie Hill.

CHARLES J. LANE M. D. For many years actively engaged in one of the most exacting of all the higher lines of occupation to which a man may lend his energies, Charles J. Lane, M. D., a retired physician and surgeon of Marshall, gained not only marked prestige in his profession, but has ever been recognized as a progressive and public-spirited citizen, and as one who orders his life upon the highest principles of honor and integrity. A son of James Lane, of whom a brief record appears elsewhere in this volume, he was born, June 27, 1837, in Convis, Calhoun county, Michigan, of English ancestry.

Acquiring his early education in log school houses, and at Olivet Institute, he entered the medical department of the University of Michigan in 1860. The following year, in September, 1861, he entered the army as hospital steward in Captain Howland's Battle Creek Engineer Corps, and served until January 8, 1862, when he was honorably discharged, and embarked in private practice. Going to Philadelphia in 1863, Dr. Lane continued his studies in the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, at the same time attending clinics at the Pennsylvania and Blockley hospitals. In the early part of May, 1864, armed with letters of introduction from prominent surgeons and government officials to the secretary of war, he went to Washington, and was there appointed a medical officer in the regular army, with the rank of first lieutenant. The doctor was then ordered to report for duty at the Columbia College Hospital, and on the twenty-third day of that same month was transferred to the department of the east, under command of General John A. Dix, with headquarters in New York City. He was at once assigned to duty on board the United States Hospital transport "Western Metropolis," where he served as chief medical officer for eight months. Being then transferred to the United States hospital transport "Northern Light," he there served in the same capacity for five months.

The "Western Metropolis" and "Northern Light" were among the largest and best-equipped transports in use during the Civil war, the former having been chartered by the government for $800.00 per day, and the latter for $850.00 per day. These transports always carried from five to eight medical officers, and to Dr. Lane fell the honor and distinction of being the only one of the surgeons and physicians who served continuously on those two magnificent steamers during the entire time that they were in commission as hospital transports. On September 16, 1865, the doctor was sent by the war department to Port Royal, South Carolina, where he was placed in charge of the officer's ward at the United States General Hospital, at that point. Resigning his posi-

Hosted by Google

tion on February 28, 1866, the doctor returned to Michigan, and was actively engaged in the practice of his profession until his retirement, in 1905. During the administrations of Presidents Harrison and Cleveland, he served as United States Pension Examining Surgeon.

Dr. Lane married, in June, 1869, Cornelia Cook, and they have a pleasant home at 524 West Mansion street, Marshall. The doctor is now filling two public offices, being justice of the peace and county coroner.

WILLIAM J. PORR is superintendent of the sewer department of the city of Albion, and has for years been engaged as a practical plumber and contractor in the city. He was born in Cochecton, New York state, on May 9, 1857, and is the son of William J. and Katherine (Prush) Porr, early settlers of Cochecton, Sullivan county, New York. The father was a shoemaker by trade and a builder of some importance, being connected largely with the public works. He also was interested in farming to some extent. He died young, being but forty-two years old, while the mother passed away in her fortieth year.

Their son, the subject of this review, was educated in the district school and later attended the Home Academy at Wayne, Pennsylvania. He then entered the employ of the Lorain & Wheeling Railway, remaining with them three years. He came to Michigan in 1872, soon becoming connected with the Windmill Manufacturing Company, after which he was employed by the Gale Springtooth, Harrow, Seeder Company, as a traveling salesman, covering the states of Michigan, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas. He was later employed by the Union Windmill Manufacturing Company, his sales covering the states of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. Later he engaged in the plumbing business in which business he continued until 1906, when he sold out his plumbing business and decided to retire from business. He has from time to time been employed by the city of Albion to superintend the more important of its great public works. It was under his supervision that the waterworks system of the city was laid out and constructed. Later, after the disasterous flood of 1908, when most of the bridges of Albion were swept away, Mr. Porr was the inspector under whom the new steel and concrete bridges were constructed. Practically the most important of the public works of the city that he has undertaken and pushed through to successful completion is what is known as the Black Ditch Sewer, a great artery, not only draining the vast swamp in the southwestern part of the city, but furnishing the most comprehensive sewer system in the city. This project considered by many engineers impracticable and expensive to almost a prohibitory degree was completed by Mr. Porr in less than one year at a cost of less than $10,000.00, or a sum less than one-third of the engineers estimated cost. A number of other difficult and expensive sewer systems have been constructed by him with the same degree of celerity and economy so marked in the Black Ditch Sewer.

Mr. Porr, by his industry and business capacity, has accumulated a comfortable fortune. He is the owner of several business blocks in the city of Albion and a fine farm just a short distance from the city. In 1898 he was elected as one of the aldermen of the city, and later became a member of the board of public works, an office which he has held for a number of years.

In 1880 Mr. Porr was married to Miss Kate Rahrmann, of Albion, a daughter of Anton Rarhmann. One daughter has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Porr,—May, who is the wife of Raymond H. Bishop, of Los Angeles, California.

Hosted by Google

EDWARD B. ZIMMER. Among those who have made their own way in the world from early youth, who have surmounted all obstacles in their path and attained success in their chosen callings, Edward B. Zimmer takes prominent place. Although his success so far is not of gigantic or sensational character, it shows integrity of purpose and true manhood, and he is known as an able and enterprising business man of Battle Creek, where he acts in the capacity of secretary of the Battle Creek Gas Company, one of the city's most important industries. Mr. Zimmer was born at Spring Lake, Ottawa county, Michigan, August 16, 1877, and is a son of Nathan and Katherine (Spinner) Zimmer. The former, who spent his life in the vocation of sawyer, passed away some six or seven years ago, while the latter still survives and makes her home in Grand Rapids. There were four daughters and two sons in the family, Edward B. being the third in order of birth and the only one residing in Battle Creek:

Edward B. Zimmer secured his educational training in the public schools of Spring Lake, and in 1897 came to Battle Creek and entered the Krug Business College, where he secured a thorough training in business matters. His connection with the Battle Creek Gas Company began in 1900, at which time he entered the employ of this concern as collector and bookkeeper, but after two or three months gave up collecting in order to give his full attention to the books of the company. In 1907 he had so gained the confidence and esteem of his employers, that he was elected secretary of the company, a position he has held to the present time. An alert, progressive business man, he has done much to advance the interests of his company and to improve its service, and his work has been appreciated alike by the members of the company and by the public at large. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge in Battle Creek, and was reared in the faith of the Catholic church.

On June 18, 1902, Mr. Zimmer was married in Battle Creek to Miss Ruth Agness Stewart, who was born in Calhoun county, and is a graduate of Olivet College. The family home is situated at No. 27 Cliff street.

MRS. MAY LEVERANCE is the widow of Lovell B. Leverance, a man well known for years in Jackson and Calhoun counties, and now deceased. Mrs. Leverance prior to her marriage was May G. Jacobs, the daughter of D. L. Jacobs, for many years a resident of Jackson county, who later moved into Albion, there purchasing a number of brick blocks and coming to own large real estate holdings. The mother of Mrs. Leverance was Lucy A. (Beebe) Jacobs, a native of Vermont, while the father was a native of New York state. They were pioneer settlers of Michigan and both are now deceased.

Mrs. Leverance received her education in the public and high school of Hanover. She married Lovell B. Leverance in 1879, and following his demise in 1887, she assumed entire charge of the farm, directing the labors of her hired help and managing every detail in connection with the work of the place. She has amply demonstrated her ability to manage successfully the affairs of such a business as she conducts, and has made splendid progress in a financial way in the years in which she has been dependent upon her own resources. In 1901 she erected her present fine residence at a cost of $2,200 and one of the finest country homes in the township. Mrs. Leverance is one of the brilliant and prominent women of the community, being not only well versed in matters pertaining to farming and stockraising, but is well versed on topics of the day, and an interesting conversationalist. She is known to possess excellent

Hosted by Google

judgment, and her opinion on a business proposition within her ken is always accepted as sound and practical. As previously mentioned, Mrs. Leverance was married in 1879. Her husband, Lovell B. Leverance, was born in Jackson county, Michigan, in 1832. He was educated in the district school at Jonesville and then attended the Albion high school. Following the completion of his education he was engaged in teaching in the district schools for some time, after which he became associated with Dr. Saxton, of Concord, in the drug business, and for five years he was thus occupied. At the end of that time Mr. Leverance purchased the old Newton homestead where he was engaged in farming for a number of years, and in all his undertakings he enjoyed a generous measure of prosperity. The farm was a model one in every particular and was well kept up during the regime of Mr. Leverance, as it has been in later years under the supervision of his widow. Mr. Leverance was the son of Decaker and Sarah (Bullock) Leverance, both natives of New York state, born at Oswego, and they located in Pulaski township, Michigan, in their young life, purchasing a farm of 120 acres which the elder Leverance put in a fine state of cultivation in the years he gave to its care. Lovell Leverance was a member of the Masonic fraternity, affiliating with Concord lodge.

AUGUST E. ARNDT has contributed a considerable, in a material way, to the growth of Albion in his capacity as contractor and builder in masonry, and in the years of his active business operations has built some of the most substantial dwellings and other buildings in the city. His work has a reputation for honesty and all around quality that has won him an enviable name in the city, and he is regarded everywhere as one of the reliable business men of the community.

Born in Germany in 1865, August E. Arndt is the son of William and Wilhelmina (Schumacher) Arndt. They also were German born, and came to America in 1881, locating in Albion, Michigan, almost immediately. The father was a mason by trade and he soon found employmen, being still occupied at his trade, and living on Irwin avenue, one of the principal residence streets of the city.

August Arndt received his education in Germany. He entered school when he was in his sixth year, continuing until he was fourteen, and then went into the works with his father to learn the trade of a mason. He worked faithfully and learned every detail of the building business, after which he continued in the business on his own responsibility until the removal of the family to America. Following his arrival in Albion Mr. Arndt was employed by the Gale Manufacturing Company, and worked with this concern during fifteen winters, following his trade during the summer months. He then began contracting and building on his own account, and since that time has been continuously engaged in the business. He has done some of the best work in the city, in Marshall, Battle Creek, Jackson and surrounding cities, and his contract work is well known for its dependable quality, and his use of honest materials and general honest methods are everywhere acknowledged.

In 1891 Mr. Arndt married Miss Anna Schumacher, the daughter of Carl and Fredericka (Raether) Schumacher, and to them have been born four children,—Fred, Freda, Louisa and Olga.

Mr. Arndt and his family are attendants of the Salem church. He is an Independent in his political faith, and has never sought or held an office, having no taste for official life. He owns a comfortable residence at No. 500 West Irwin avenue, while the home of his parents

Hosted by Google

directly adjoins his place. He is also a member of the B. M. & P. O. U. of America.

GEORGE W. SWEENEY, one of the prosperous farmers of Albion township, in Calhoun county, Michigan, was born on section 7, Albion township, his birth occurring on the old Sweeney homestead on May 14, 1869, and in this county he has passed his entire life in active farming operations of considerable importance. He is the son of John C. and Elizabeth (Walkins) Sweeney, who were among the early pioneers of Albion township. The father was a native of Pennsylvania, and he moved to Michigan in 1837, there locating those lands which have ever since constituted the old Sweeney homestead. He was a good judge of land, as many will affirm today, when looking over the tracts chosen by him in that early period. In his day the land was covered with burr oak timber, which is indicative of a deep, rich soil, especially productive for grain, wheat, corn and beans. He improved his farm, erecting substantial buildings and bringing the wilderness into a state of complete subjection to his will. His place comprised three hundred and nine acres, and he was able to interest himself largely in cattle and sheep, through having so large an acreage, and he prospered all the days of his life. He was known as one of the most intelligent and successful farming men of the community, and lived on this farm until his death, his wife following him shortly after. She was a most devoted wife and mother, possessed of all those splendid qualities so necessary in the woman who is destined to endure the privations and hardships attendant upon the invasion of a new country.

George W. Sweeney was one of the two sons of his parents. He was reared to farm life, and knew all the rigors incident to his time and station. He attended the district school, and later spent two years in Albion College. That period was exceedingly profitable to him, for it was then he acquired the knowledge which fitted him for a business career. He continued on the farm until he was twenty-one, and in 1892 he married Miss Agnes H. Sheely, a daughter of Jacob Sheely, an old resident of Concord, Calhoun county. After his marriage Mr. Sweeney rented a farm in Homer, and there he resided for two years. Following the passing of his father he returned to the home place, and took charge of the business there until the death of his mother, which occurred in February, 1912. He then engaged actively in general farming, stock raising, and in the feeding of cattle and lambs, which he found to be a most profitable business. Since the death of his mother, Mr. Sweeney has purchased the interest of his brother in the place, and is now the sole owner and proprietor of the old homestead, his operations placing him among the big stock and farming men of the county. Mr. Sweeney has one brother, William A., who is a large contractor in painting and paper-hanging, and is a man of considerable means. The Sweeney farm is supplied with a substantial residence, two large barns, sheds and out-buildings of every description, all in first class condition. The place taken as a unit, is a model one in every respect and is maintained in a state of high cultivation. In addition to his stock-growing and feeding operations, Mr. Sweeney is known to be one of the largest growers of corn and white beans in the township, and has a wide reputation for practical methods in the conduct of his business.

Mr. and Mrs. Sweeney are the parents of six children, as follows: Jonathan C., Don C., Helen C., Lucy J., Mary F., and Katherine L. In 1912 Mr. Sweeney was elected justice of the peace, and he has been a member of the Grange for a number of years, as well as the Benevolent

Hosted by Google

Protective Order of Elks, with affiliation in lodge No. 113, at Jackson, Michigan. His reputation in his community is of the highest order, where he is known to be energetic, broad-minded and public spirited.

GEORGE HOWARD is a stock dealer and shipper, and operates two of the principal meat markets in Albion. He was born in Albion township, Calhoun county, just south of the city of Albion, upon the farm of his father, on January 1, 1850, and is the son of James and Martha (Greenfield) Howard, natives of England. The father, upon his arrival in America in 1828 went direct to Port Byron, and thence to Auburn, New York. In 1835 he moved with his family from the latter place to Michigan, making the trip in wagons. The family located in the city of Albion, remaining there until the elder Howard might make suitable arrangements, and then moved to a farm two miles south of the city. He was a harness and trunk maker, and he did such work as he could find to do in the line of his trade for several years—about seven in all. He then bought a farm of one hundred and thirty acres, and cultivated it in conjunction with his other business. He was a man of considerable force of character, widely known in and about the community where he resided, and of some importance in affairs of a public nature. He died in 1863 during the Civil war, his wife having preceded him in 1857.

George Howard was left an orphan at an early age, and such opportunities as he has found in life have been for the most part, of his own making. He remained on the farm with his father, and received some education in the district schools. He gradually worked into stock-dealing and shipping in connection with the regular tilling of the soil. He married early, and afterward engaged in buying and shipping, also in feeding cattle and lambs by the carload, which he shipped to the eastern markets. He occupies the farm of his father and the place is in a fine state of cultivation. In addition to his buying and shipping business, Mr. Howard operates two of the leading meat markets in Albion, being the owner of a slaughter house, where most of the meat for his shops is prepared for the market. He has prospered from the beginning of his independent career, and his success in life may be said to be the direct result of his splendid energy, enthusiasm and sobriety, it being a fact that he has never indulged in intoxicating liquor, tobacco, or in gambling. As a business man his integrity is of the most unequivocal order, and his reputation is a most enviable one.

Mr. Howard married in 1871, Sarah J. Whitney, the daughter of Mrs. Hannah (Harmon Wills) Whitney, once of New York, but later of Michigan. Two sons and a daughter were born to Mr. and Mrs. Howard,—Fred G. and Frank S., both operating the meat markets which their father established in Albion some years ago and Bertha E., now Mrs. J. B. Smith. Mr. Howard employs one clerk, Frank Doolittle, who has been in his employ for nearly thirty years, and is known as "Trusty." Mr. Howard is a Progressive in his politics, though not especially active in party affairs. He is a citizen of the most worthy instincts, public-spirited and enterprising, and he built the Albion City Hospital, a substantial brick affair costing about eight thousand dollars, which he rents to the city, thus supplying a long felt want. He and his family are attendants of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are popular and prominent in the social activities of the city.

H. B. PARKER. The leading citizens of any community are those men who are in control of important business and industrial operations of that community, and it is always a promising sign when the younger

Hosted by Google

men of a town or city are found forging their way to the front in any of the commercial or industrial circles as leaders. H. B. Parker takes a prominent place among men of this class in the city of Albion, where he is occupied as vice-president of the Malleable Iron Company of Albion.

Born in Chicago, August 21, 1871, Mr. Parker is yet a young man, and the son of E. A. and Almira L. Parker. His paternal grandfather was a clergyman of the Congregational church at Galesburg, Illinois, and his father was general passenger agent of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad for some time, and afterward occupied a similar position with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, being connected with the latter named corporation when he died in 1875. The mother of the subject was a daughter of Calvin T. Beebe, an early pioneer settler of Jackson, Michigan, who died there at the age of eighty-five years. Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Parker married W. S. Kessler, and she passed away on March 20, 1896.

Mr. Parker acquired his early education in the schools of Chicago, and came to Albion with his mother and stepfather. It was at that time that the Malleable Iron Company was organized and the young man became connected with the new company straightway. He began work in the factory and from there advanced steadily, becoming familiar with every detail of the business in all its various departments. In 1892 he had so far advanced that he was made a director and vice-president of the concern, in which offices he has continued ever since. In 1899 he was made assistant general manager and in that important capacity bears an active part in the responsibility and operations of the business, which ranks as the largest of its kind in the state of Michigan. The plant is located adjacent to the Michigan Central Railroad tracks and covers 8 acres. More than 700 men are employed, a fact which renders the plant a most valuable adjunct to the assets of the city, furnishing as it does the means of maintenance to a large number of families.

In addition to his interest in the iron business, Mr. Parker has been connected with Mr. Kessler in real estate matters, and in 1900 they erected the fine new post-office block. Mr. Parker is further secretary and treasurer of the Marion Gas and Oil Company, with wells at Findlay, Ohio. The oil lands of this company are excellent producers and that business is proving as profitable as are the other concerns with which he is connected.

On November 28, 1895, Mr. Parker was united in marriage with Miss Theo Gardner, a daughter of Hon. Washington Gardner, of Albion, Michigan. They attend the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mrs. Parker is a member, and toward the support of which Mr. Parker is a generous contributor. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and is affiliated with Murat Lodge No. 14, A. F. & A. M., Albion chapter Royal Arch Masons, and Marshall commandery Knights Templar. His political support is with the Republican party, but he is not active in its ranks as a politician. Mr. Parker has already attained an enviable position in the business world, and great financial prosperity and influence are predicted for him in circles where he is best known.

CHARLES K. BLISS, one of the best known men in Albion, represents one of the old pioneer families of Calhoun county, Michigan. He was born in the city which now represents his home, and is the son of Samuel Bliss and his wife, Isabelle K. Kellogg, both of whom were natives of New York. In 1836 Samuel Bliss came to Albion, Michigan. He was a carpenter by trade, and in that industry was occupied more or

Hosted by Google

less for many years. After locating in Albion he purchased two lots on Eaton street, on which he erected a two-story building. This he divided into several apartments and rented out. The building was most crude in construction, the frame work being of huge timbers, and the studding of slabs with two straight sides but it sufficed as a shelter, and in that early day people were able to content themselves with fewer conveniences than at the present time. He was a skillful workman himself, and as his means accumulated he was able to build houses, until he has some ten or twelve which he rented out. He continued to work at his trade of carpenter until about forty years old, his death occurring in October, 1893, when he was over eighty-one years old, his birth having occurred on March 28, 1812. His wife, who was born in 1824, died on November 19, 1874. They were the parents of four children, Jerome, Viola, Charles K. of this review, and Kitrenah, the latter of whom lives in Ionia county, Michigan.

As a lad at home, Charles K. Bliss acquired his early education in the common schools of his native district, after which he entered Albion College, where he studied for three years. After leaving school he learned the trade of a mason, and engaged in contracting, confining his labors to plastering. As his means accumulated with the passing years, he placed his capital in first mortgages, and he is today the possessor of some valuable real estate in the county, among the various pieces being a hotel at Homer.

Mr. Bliss is unmarried. He has a cottage and hunting "shack" at Long Lake, in Iosco county, Michigan, and his chief delights are found in rod and gun. Here in the wilds of Iosco county he passes considerable time during every summer and autumn in hunting and fishing, and his outfit of guns and fishing tackle is one of the most complete to be found in much traveling. He is a member of the Albion Club, and a man well liked and possessing a host of good friends in the county which has known him all his life.

LEONARD J. SHIELDS has for three years been engaged as a dealer and shipper in all kinds of poultry, eggs, hay and produce in Albion, and has come to be firmly established in that business through his careful attention to details and his understanding of market conditions. Previous to his connection with this business he was engaged as a retailer of milk, and in that way gained a wide acquaintance in and about Albion.

Mr. Shields is a native son of Calhoun county, born in Eckford township, on August 11, 1872. He is the son of Charles J. Elizabeth (Wigmore) Shields, both natives of England and born in Gloucestershire. In 1870 the Shields family migrated to the United States, and upon reach-American shores they made their way direct to Calhoun county, Michigan, where the father purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres and immediately engaged in farming and stock raising. He became one of the prosperous farmers of this section, and died on March 19, 1897, one of the highly esteemed men of his community, and well established in a business way. His widow still survives him and makes her home in Albion, where she enjoys a modicum of health and strength.

Leonard J. Shields acquired his education in the district schools of Eckford township and later was so fortunate as to be able to pursue a commercial course in the Albion College, after which he returned to the farm where he remained until he was twenty-six years old. In 1898 he located in the city of Albion, and there he bought and retailed milk to a wide circle of customers, continuing in the business about eight years. In 1909 he began to deal in poultry of all kinds, and in

Hosted by Google

the buying and shipping of hay and feed and he is today well established in this business, his place being conducted near the farmer sheds and also near to the Michigan Central Railroad tracks. He has a wide acquaintance in the county and the business is in a constantly expanding state, which is bringing him in a considerable revenue and winning him a sure place among the successful men of the city.

In 1897 Mr. Shields married Miss Pearl Simpson, a daughter of John Simpson, one of the old residents of Calhoun county. To their union two sons were born,—Harold LaVerne and Warren Emerson. Mr. Shields has two brothers,—Fred L., of Albion, engaged in the dray and transfer business, and Frank H., a graduate of Albion College, who is the founder and proprietor of the New Briton (Conn.) Commercial College. He had five sisters, named as follows: Florence A.; Edna May (deceased); Lillian E; Maud and Cora M. Mr. and Mrs. Shields and family are attendants of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the home of the family is maintained at No. 310 Irwin avenue.

WILLIAM HENRY PERINE. Representatives ot that class of citizens which Calhoun county attracted in the early forties from the vicinity of New York City as the country slowly but surely recovered from the panic of 1837, a class well equipped for the struggles and triumphs in new fields, men of exceptional strength both physically and mentally, and already thoroughly Americanized by heredity and environment,— was William H. Perine, who settled near Tekonsha, with his wife and five children, in 1844. He was born May 17, 1808, at Southfield, Staten Island, being the youngest but one of the ten children of Abraham Perine, (1766-1831) who is buried at old St. John's Episcopal church in New York City. The latter had spent his boyhood days amid stirring scenes, for his father, Henry Perine, born in 1730, was the patriot supervisor of the town of Westfield, Staten Island, from 1774 to 1783. Henry Perine took an active part as a member of the Whig County Committee and sided in the organization of the patriots of his neighborhood into militia companies, thus risking life and property, especially during the period when the British troops seized and endeavored to keep the island under martial law. After their departure he lived a respected and beloved citizen of Westfield until his death in 1788. These activities were inherent, as his father, Peter Perine (1701-1756) was Captain of "The Troop" of the Richmond County Militia as early as 1739, and his older brother, Peter, was a New Jersey soldier of the French and Indian War. The father, Peter, just mentioned, was the first of the four sons of Daniel Perine (1672-1745) who, in turn, was the fourth son of the ancestor of the American branch of the family, Daniel Perrin.

Daniel Perrin, "The Huguenot," son of Pierre Perrin, was one of the eighteen male passengers, or emigres, a portion of whom were French, from the Isle of Jersey, that were brought over in the ship "Philip" by Governor Philip Carteret. They landed in New York, July 29, 1665, preparatory to taking up their abode in the Elizabethtown Plantations, the first of the "New Caesarea" or New Jersey settlements, under the grant to Sir George Carteret, John, Lord Berkley and Lord Stratton, by the Duke of York, afterwards James II of England. In the "Philip" also came Maria Thorel, the fiance of Daniel Perrin. She also was of French lineage, her family having resided near the ancient city of Rouen. The Perrins, or Perines, appeared to have come originally from Nayers (Noyers-Bacage) in Normandy, about one hundred and fifty miles west of Paris.

The arms on the ring worn by Daniel Perrin, according to copies of a

Hosted by Google

sketch or impression preserved for his descendants, bore, in addition to the three pilgrim's escallops, a chevron with three crosses pattee, emblematic of the period of the crusades in which the common ancestors of the Carterets and the Perrins had gained an enviable distinction, the most important being Sir Roger de Barneville, whose praises have been sung by Tasso in his account of the First Crusade. Roger, Seigneur de Barneville, and his son, Hugh, Seigneur de Rosel, were among the Norman knights who accompanied William the Conquerer to England in 1066-67. (Battle Abbey Roll, by Duchess of Cleveland.) In Domesday (1086) Sir Hugh's hereditary title is mentioned, and a charter of the time of Stephen (1135-1154) mentions his son, Robert, and in 1165 his grandson, another Robert de Rosel, is given official record. The early maps of the Isle of Jersey show not only a "Rosel Harbour" and "Rosel Manor House," but also a short distance from the latter an ancient watch tower marked "Tour Perin or Rosel." The ancient pedigree or chart of the family of the Cartarets states that in the time of Edward IV (1461-1483) Rawlin Tampier, Lord of Roselle, married the daughter of Richard Weston, and their daughter married Dominique Perrin. A son of the latter, Edmund, became Lord of Rozel, and, according to a chart of 1564, Edmund Perrin's daughter, Isabel, married John Dumaresq, a Seigneur of the Isle of Jersey. This chart, moreover, shows that Anne Dumaresq, a lineal descendant of John and Isabel (Perrin) Dumaresq, was, subsequent to 1644, married to Philip de Cartaret, who thus became Lord of Rosel, in right of his wife.

Many other official and hereditary documents show that the families of Cartaret and Perrin had long been connected through blood or marriage, and on this account, the marriage on February 18, 1666, of Daniel Perrin and Maria Thorel, as the first one was solemnized under the new government, seems to have been especially fitting. The original marriage license is still in existence. After the marriage, they removed across to Staten Island and established their home on a tract of land granted to Daniel Perrin in 1695 by the English Governor, Benjamin Fletcher. After 1700 the spelling "Perine" appears to have been generally used by those of the family who remained on Staten Island, while "Perrine" was used by those living in New Jersey. *

It was the good fortune of William H. Perine, after serving his seven years apprenticeship as a turner, to marry Susan Wade Wooley of New York city on the 27th of February, 1830, and soon afterward to form the partnership of Bucklin and Perine, whose specialties of turning and blindmaking in mahogany, rosewood and lignum vitæ, found ready sale. Their establishment had become in the thirties one of the largest of its kind in New York, and there were the beginnings of an export trade, when Mr. Perine was compelled on account of his health to change his occupation. His physicians advised him that his system was becoming permeated by the fine dust that had been unavoidable in his constant oversight of work on hard woods only, and therefore, his thoughts turned to the northwest and to Michigan.

Mr. Perine's plans for removal were made with care. He made a trip through northern Ohio, Indiana and Illinois into Iowa, returning through southern Michigan. This trip was in the summer when the St. Joseph river at Niles was so dry that he crossed by stepping from stone to stone. By the spring of 1844 he had disposed of his business and his goods were packed, when suddenly his wife and his youngest son, John, were taken with varioloid. His former partner offered the use of his home and the patients recovered in due course. A quick and uneventful journey of two weeks to Michigan followed in November, their route being by way

* Note: Daniel Perrin, "The Huguenot" and his Descendants, 1665-1910; compiled by Howland D. Perrine, A. B., LL. B., of the New York Bar.

Hosted by Google

of Rochester, the Erie Canal and Detroit to Marshall. On his earlier trip Mr. Perine had visited his older sister, Clarissa, who with her husband, Thomas Warne, had settled about two miles north of Tekonsha, so that the family found ready welcome. Mr. Perine first bought eighty acres in section 24, about two miles northeast of Tekonsha, which had then a population of about one hundred. Of this first eighty, about thirty acres had been under the plow, while the rest was oak openings. The family found temporary quarters in a vacant log house kindly offered by Rutledge Enos, and later occupied another log house of Ira Burley, until their own was completed. A second adjoining tract of eighty acres was soon acquired on the south side of St. Joseph River. Their house being situated less than a mile from the Clarendon line, the family became identified at once with the Methodists of Clarendon. Lewis Benham, Artemas Humiston and Mr. Perine were the main stays of the Clarendon church. Divine services were first held in a log school house across the river, but before long Lewis Benham donated for the purpose the log house formerly occupied by his family. Within a few years the need of a new church was felt and Mrs. Perine toured the neighborhood and adjoining villages, accepting any and everything that could be turned into cash for the purpose. She also wrote east soliciting funds and books. William Blashfield donated ground on one of the corners of his farm and the church was built. Later it was moved across from the cemetery, where it now stands.

The Perine home with that of Lewis Benham became headquarters for ministers. Among those who came most often was Manassah Hickey, who did a great work among the Indians. He seemed to be followed always, in the memory of Mr. Perine's eldest daughter, by a crowd of Indians with their squaws and papooses. Thirty or forty at a time often encamped across the road. Mr. Perine was a class leader for many years and his house became known as the Methodist Tavern, as distinguished from Burley's Tavern, a short distance east.

The work of subduing the wilderness was well accomplished after fifteen years, but not without cost, as the health of Mr. Perine and that of his youngest son, failed under the strain, and neither was able to respond to the call to arms in 1861. His second son, Jacob, however, who had attended the Albion Wesleyan Academy in 1858 and 1859, was ready for service, but held off a year in the hope that the farm could be sold first. No suitable purchaser appeared, but Jacob Perine enlisted in 1862 in Company E, Fourth Michigan Infantry. On the second day's fighting at Gettysburg he was wounded in the side and arm and reported dead. His father hastened east and there was a mutual surprise when he found his son in the hospital at Fort Schuyler, New York. Jacob Perine recovered and returned to the front in the fall of 1864, serving in Company K, First Michigan Infantry, and was at Appomattox at the close.

After selling his farm in 1863, Mr. Perine removed to Albion, where he had purchased a house on East Chestnut street. During the later period of his life he built and occupied several houses on the same street. He died May 20, 1893.

Mr. Perine was a large man of reserve temperament and impressive demeanor, and in Albion, although respected by all, he was not given to forming an intimate friendship with many, and it was only to a few old friends like Jacob Anderson and Marsh Dickey that he disclosed his naturally kind and companionable nature. He was a member of the town board of Tekonsha for several years and was elected justice of the peace in 1860. The way in which he was regarded may be judged from the following incident. He was in a field on his farm one day in 1861, when a young man, Dayton Wright by name, came to him and said: "Mr. Perine I have enlisted. Will you look after my personal effects while I am gone?" As Wright was generally considered to possess only a small

Hosted by Google

amount of goods, not exceeding $50 or $75 in value, Mr. Perine replied without hesitation: "Certainly I will, my boy, if you wish it." To his surprise, Wright took more than $800 from his pockets to be left without security. True to his word, Mr. Perine invested the money and handed it back with interest to Wright upon his return. He admonished the young man, however, never again to do such a thing, with him or any other man.

The first wife of Mr. Perine died suddenly of apoplexy at Tekonsha, June 8, 1867. The following year, in Newark, New Jersey, he was married on March 23d, to Miss Lucinda Vail Hamilton. Their married life together of nearly fourteen years duration was most ideal. Her activities were many, especially in all that pertained to Methodism, and it was while working in the church in the fall of 1876 that she contracted the cold from which pulmonary disease developed and resulted in her death, May 22, 1877. Her talents as an entertainer and conversationalist were remarkable and it is related that her last pastor, Rev. William Henry Perrine, D. D., said of her that he never knew a woman who made him more disposed to laugh and forget his many responsibilities. She was in advance of her time in many respects. Her last sentence before passing away was, "Lord Jesus, come quickly, if consistent with Thy will." Dr. Perrine, who was for ten years a professor in Albion College, was descended from Henry (1669-1765), the second son of Daniel Perrin, while the subject of this sketch was descended from Daniel (1672-1745), the fourth son of the American ancestor.

Mr. Perine's third marriage occurred June 11, 1878, at Marengo, to Mrs. Mary Blodgett Rowe, a daughter of Sardius Blodgett, formerly of Boston. Mrs. Perine resides in East Porter street, Albion. At the age of seventy-nine she continues her active interest in affairs, and is now president of the Albion Women's Relief Corps, E. W. Hollinsworth, No. 36.

Mr. Perine had six children, of whom one daughter, Harriet, died when two years old. The others were: Henry Augustus, born in 1831; married Sarah Reynolds Doolittle. He was blind for many years before his death in 1891 at Tekonsha, where his widow resides.

Mary Matilda, born in 1834; married (1) Letson Benham (1827-1879); (2) William B. Blashfield, (1838-1896) of Clarendon. She now resides in Chicago.

Harriet Wooley, born 1836; she married William B. Blashfield of Clarendon, and died in 1888.

Jacob Harson, born in 1840; married Alice E. Parmalee. They reside in Burr Oak street, Albion, Michigan.

John Edward Perine, the sixth and youngest child of William Henry and Susan Wade (Wooley) Perine, was born December 11, 1841, in Union, New Jersey. When about three years old he came to Tekonsha, Michigan, with his parents. He left the farm when twenty years old, and after working in Cary's general store in Tekonsha, removed to Albion in 1865, where he resided continuously with the exception of one year in St. Charles and Detroit.

After about three years as a clerk in the store of H. P. Graves, a short time with G. W. Maher and several years (1873-1877) with C. W. Boyce, he formed a partnership in March, 1877, with O. S. Chapman. In April, 1885, Mr. Perine purchased the interest of his senior partner in the grocery concern of Chapman and Perine and continued the business until he retired seventeen years later.

Mr. Perine was married at St. Louis, Michigan, August 28, 1873, to Cornelia Ann Aiken, a daughter of Samuel Aiken (Aken) of Sheriden. Her mother's maiden name was Adaline Fox, and through her father, Roswell Fox, Jr., of Huron, New York, she was descended from

Hosted by Google

that English family which gave to the cause of the American Colonies one of their staunchest champions in the long parliamentary struggle, Charles James Fox.

Mrs. Perine attended Albion College in 1863, '64 and '65. She was a teacher for ten years, nearly all of which was in the public schools of Albion. At the time of her resignation in 1874 she had the distinction of having taught in each of the four ward schools, as well as in the central building. One of Mrs. Perine's brothers is Charles C. Aiken, who resides with his wife in North Mingo street, Albion. Mr. Aiken was First Sergeant of Company K, Ninth Michigan Cavalry. He was with General Sherman on the March to the Sea, and fought in the battle of the Wilderness.

Aside from his business and home interests, Mr. Perine's activities have been confined principally to duties connected with the Methodist church, of which he was a steward and treasurer for upwards of ten years. At the time of the erection of the present Methodist church, he built also on East Erie street, facing Huron, a large brick house, which is still one of the most attractive residences of Albion.

Mr. and Mrs. Perine, who now reside at 110 North Huron street, have four children,—two sons and two daughters, each of whom was graduated from Albion College, and two received degrees also from Harvard and Smith College respectively.

JOHN HARVEY KELLOGG, M. D., son of John Preston and Anne Jeanette Kellogg, was born at Tyrone, Michigan, February 26, 1852. Through his grandmother, whose name was Gardner, he was descended from Mr. Gardner, one of the Pilgrim Fathers who landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620. His mother, whose name was Stanley, claimed descent from Lord Stanley. At the early age of twelve years he entered a printing office and followed the printer's trade until he was twenty, with the exception of such time as was spent in completing his studies in the public schools of the city and the Michigan State Normal School at Ypsilanti, studies which were supplemented and extended by work of private tutors.

In 1872 he entered upon the study of medicine, taking a course at the medical department of the University of Michigan and graduating from Bellevue Hospital Medical College, which later became a department of the University of New York, in the spring of 1875. His preceptor while an undergraduate was Dr. Edwin Lewis, an eminent New York physician. He was also a private pupil under the late Prof. Austin Flint, Sr., the late Prof. E. G. Janeway, and after graduating was pupil assistant of the eminent Dr. George N. Beard, a pioneer in this country in the application of electricity in the treatment of disease.

After graduating in 1875, Doctor Kellogg became connected with the Battle Creek Sanitarium and was appointed superintendent of the institution, which honor he declined. However, he accepted a year later at the solicitation of the board, on being informed by the board that the determination had been made to close the institution unless he would consent to take charge of it.

Doctor Kellogg was made editor of *Good Health Magazine* in the spring of 1873, a position which he has held continuously since that time, in addition to his work as superintendent of the Battle Creek Sanitarium.

Five months were spent in Europe during the early part of the year 1883 in study in various hospitals and laboratories. Most of the time was devoted to the study of surgery under the famous Bilroth in Vienna, at the time the leading surgeon of the world. Special courses of in-

Hosted by Google

struction were taken under Bilroth's first assistant, Doctor Wölfler, who shortly before had discovered the operation known as gastro-enterostomy. Special attention was given to the practice of this operation and other operations upon the stomach, together with plastic operations upon the face and other parts, operations for which the clinic of Professor Bilroth was especially noted. Some time was also spent at the clinics of Politzer in Vienna, Charcot and Landolt in Paris, and at several London hospitals.

A second trip abroad was made in 1889, during which four months were spent as assistant to the famous Dr. Lawson Tait of Birmingham, England, at that time the leading abdominal surgeon of the world. This was a most profitable season, as a very exceptional opportunity was enjoyed for becoming thoroughly familiar with a department of surgical work which at that time was undertaken by comparatively few surgeons and in which the mortality still remained at a very high figure. During this visit to Europe, some time was also spent in watching the work of Savage, Thornton, Bantock, Lister, and other eminent surgeons.

A third visit to Europe was made in 1900, on which occasion a short trip was made to Egypt, Palestine, Turkey and the Balkan countries, particularly for the purpose of studying the climate of these countries and also to obtain a little needed rest. This Oriental trip of two weeks was the only real vacation the doctor has ever taken during an active professional life of more than fifty years. During this trip a considerable number of surgical operations were performed in Switzerland and Denmark.

In 1902, after the fire and the laying of the cornerstone of the new building, the plans for the building having been completed, Doctor Kellogg made an extended trip through Europe, visiting the leading hospitals and sanitariums for the purpose of securing for the new institution the most up-to-date equipment possible.

Five years later a fifth visit was made to the leading medical centers of Europe, special attention being given to the surgery of the stomach and intestines. A visit was also made to St. Petersburg for the purpose of studying the work of the famous Doctor Pawlow, whose researches on the physiology of digestion have placed him foremost among the physiologists of the world and secured to him the Nobel prize.

A sixth European trip, made in 1911, was spent in Dresden studying the great International Hygiene Exhibition, and in study with the leading specialists of Berlin, Vienna and London. During this trip a special study was made of the new remedy, radium, and of various remarkable new appliances for the study and cure of disease recently perfected by European experts.

Doctor Kellogg has also made numerous trips to Mexico, where a mission was for years conducted under his general supervision, as president of the International Medical Missionary Board. A trip was made to Cuba in 1888, and to Porto Rico in 1909. During all these trips, every spare moment, whether traveling on shipboard or on the cars, was occupied in writing. The doctor rarely failed to return from a long trip without bringing home the manuscript of a new book.

While devoting full time to his duties as superintendent of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, Doctor Kellogg has found time to take part in numerous additional enterprises. In 1895 he joined with others in the organization of the International Medical Missionary and Benevolent Association, as president of which he spent half his time for ten or twelve years in the interest of the work of the board, which resulted

Hosted by Google

in the establishment of numerous small sanitariums and homes in different parts of the United States and other countries.

In 1894 Doctor Kellogg, with others, organized the American Medical Missionary College as a training school for young men and women who desired to devote their lives to medical work in missionary lands. After existing for fourteen years, during which time over two hundred students were graduated, it was in 1910 merged with the medical department of the University of Illinois. In 1902 Doctor Kellogg, with others, organized the Haskell Home for orphans, and in 1891 the James White Memorial Home for aged persons. More than $100,000 was raised for the complete equipment and maintenance of these institutions. Other philanthropic work has also been undertaken, including the establishment of the City Mission in Chicago, to which weekly visits were made for more than seven years. The work, which was established more than twenty years ago, is still being carried on under the charge of doctors and nurses who have been trained for this work.

Among other enterprises in which Doctor Kellogg has taken a special interest as superintendent of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, are the following:

Battle Creek Sanitarium and Hospital Training School for Nurses, established in 1883. The first training school the students of which received instruction in sanitary methods; and at present one of the oldest, and for many years recognized as the largest, training school in the United States.

Battle Creek Sanitarium School of Health and Household Economics, an institution which undertakes to give to women interested in scientific housekeeping the broader training which the large practical experience of the Battle Creek Sanitarium renders possible.

Normal School of Physical Education, another of the educational departments of the institution. Organized for the purpose of preparing young men and women to act as physical directors in colleges, seminaries, normal schools, Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations, and playgrounds.

Besides being a member of the American Medical Association and Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine of Great Britain, Doctor Kellogg is also a life member of the British Gynecological Society, corresponding member of the Societe d'Hygiene de Francais, and member of the following organizations: British and American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society of Microscopists, Mississippi Valley Medical Association, Tri-State Medical Society, Michigan State Medical Society, and the American Geographical Society.

Doctor Kellogg has served for fourteen years as a member of the State Board of Health, having received appointment from four different governors.

Doctor Kellogg began his literary activities at an early date. At a rather early age, when placed in the editorial charge of *Good Health Magazine,* he had already had several years' preparation as a proofreader and editorial assistant in the *Review and Herald* printing office, where he acquired a knowledge of printing and publishing. Although the editorship of *Good Health Magazine* has occupied most of his time which could be spared from his professional duties, time has been found for the preparation of a considerable number of books, as well as the publication for five years of a monthly medical journal, *Modern Medicine.* Among the leading books which he has written or published are the following: "Rational Hydrotherapy," a work of 1,237 pages, especially designed for the medical profession. This work, published by the F. A. Davis Company, medical book publishers of Phila-

Hosted by Google

delphia, has had a circulation of nearly 15,000, mostly among the physicians of the United States. The work is sold to some extent in other countries. The "Art of Massage," a book for physicians and nurses, has enjoyed a very considerable degree of popularity, having reached its fifth edition. The "Home Hand Book of Modern Medicine," "Plain Facts," "Man the Masterpiece," "Ladies' Guide," and "The Miracle of Life," are works prepared for the hygienic and sanitary instruction of the laity which have had a circulation amounting to several hundred thousand copies, and have been sold extensively in England, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and to some extent in India, as well as in this country. Two text-books on physiology, written by request of the Harper Bros., first published by them, later by the American Book Company, have had an extensive sale as school text-books. Some dozens of medical papers have been prepared and read before medical societies and have been published in various medical journals. Some of these have attracted considerable attention. A paper entitled "Tendencies Toward Race Degeneracy" was published as a senate document, and has been very widely circulated.

Doctor Kellogg has been quite active as an inventor, besides devising several surgical procedures, some of which have been recognized and adopted by surgeons in both this country and Europe. He has invented many medical appliances, especially for the application of passive exercises, as well as numerous modes of applying water and other therapeutic means. He first observed and described what was afterwards described and named by d'Arsonval of Paris as the sinusoidal electrical current. The electric light bath and numerous appliances for making use of light as a remedial agent was invented by Doctor Kellogg for use in the Battle Creek Sanitarium and has now become one of the most popular of all methods of applying heat in the leading hospitals of the world. Many thousands of these baths have been installed in European countries, although they have only within the last few years begun to be appreciated in the United States.

The Universal Dynamometer, a device for determining the total strength of the human body and the strength of each individual group of muscles, which was perfected by Doctor Kellogg more than twenty years ago after nearly ten years of experimentation, was several years ago adopted by the United States government and has been in constant use in all its military and naval schools. One of these devices was recently shipped to the Philippine Islands for the equipment of the military academy there.

Another line of inventive activity in which Doctor Kellogg has been conspicuous is the preparation of ready-to-eat foods and foods especially designed for the use of invalids. Having been from his fourteenth year a flesh abstainer, the doctor has been especially interested in improving the quality and increasing the variety of vegetable foods and food preparations. Having given considerable attention to the study of the chemistry of foods, he began, soon after he took charge of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, a series of experiments, the result of which was the development of a thoroughly dextrinized food ready for immediate use, and, so far as is known, the first of its sort. Cereal coffee was the next product, and then came the invention of flaked cereals prepared from different grains, out of which grew the large business in flaked foods which has been developed in Battle Creek and in various other places. Doctor Kellogg's purpose in the preparation of foods has always been to meet some need recognized in the work of the sanitarium. His arduous duties as superintendent and surgeon of the Battle Creek Sanitarium have led him to leave to others the commercial development of many of his original ideas.

Hosted by Google

On February 22, 1879, Doctor Kellogg was married to Miss Ella E. Eaton, of Alfred Center, New York, herself an author of note and a prominent W. C. T. U. worker. In lieu of no children of their own, Doctor and Mrs. Kellogg have taken into their home and educated more than a score of little ones, many of whom are now grown up and married and have families of their own. All of these children, and the children's children as well, have been reared in harmony with the health principles which are promulgated at the Battle Creek Sanitarium.

MRS. ELLA EATON KELLOGG was born in Alfred Center, New York, of Puritan ancestry, Joseph Eaton, her father, being a direct descendant of John Eaton, who with his wife, Abigail, came to America in 1635 and settled in Dedham, Massachusetts.

Mrs. Kellogg was educated in Alfred University, receiving her Laureate of Arts degree at the age of nineteen. During her college career she took an active interest in the literary life of the University, being an active member of the Alfredian Lyceum, and one of the editors of the *Alfred Student*. After a short time spent in teaching and post-graduate work in languages, Mrs. Kellogg received from her Alma Mater, in 1875, her master's degree. In 1875 Mrs. Kellogg visited the Battle Creek Sanitarium, became interested in the subjects of sanitation and hygiene, and a year later enrolled in the Sanitarium School of Hygiene, which covered among others the subjects of anatomy, physiology, hygiene, and practical nursing. Later on she joined the editorial staff of *Good Health Magazine,* and in 1879 was married to Dr. J. H. Kellogg, superintendent of the Battle Creek Sanitarium.

Mrs. Kellogg has long been prominently identified with the W. C. T. U., in 1882 being appointed national superintendent of the Department of Hygiene. This position made heavy demands upon her time, requiring her to hold health institutes in various parts of the country, and to prepare a syllabus of lessons to cover the field occupied by her department. In 1885 she was appointed associate superintendent of the Social Purity department of the W. C. T. U., which work brought her in close contact with Frances E. Willard.

Out of her experiences in the Social Purity work in the W. C. T. U., grew a pamphlet, in 1890, entitled "Talks to Girls," which has enjoyed a very extended circulation. Other books written by Mrs. Kellogg are "Studies in Character Building," published in 1905, and "Science in the Kitchen," a book on popular dietetics first published in 1892, and since passing through several large editions. Along with these duties Mrs. Kellogg has found time to continue her work as associate editor of *Good Health Magazine,* a position which she still holds, and to take an active interest in the work of the Michigan Women's Press Association.

Doctor and Mrs. Kellogg's home is celebrated throughout the world by reason of the large family of children which they have adopted into their home, in lieu of children of their own. All told more than forty children, in most cases orphans and waifs from the submerged quarters of our large cities, have found there not only protection, but home in the highest sense of the word, proving abundantly that it is not so much blood that counts as the care and devotion of a mother.

WASHINGTON GARDNER,* grandson of John Gardner and sixth and youngest son of John Lewis and Sarah (Goodin) Gardner, was born on

* With Mr. Gardner's permission we here reproduce a sketch of his life by Captain Robert F. Bartlett, a boyhood friend, which appears in a history of Mr. Gardner's native county of Morrow, Ohio, and published by this firm in 1911.
PUBLISHERS.

Hosted by Google

a farm two miles due north from South Woodbury, February 16, 1845. In his fourth year the mother died, leaving a family of nine children, six sons and three daughters. Shortly after his mother's death, the subject of this sketch was taken into the home of his paternal uncle, for whom he had been named, and until he entered the army lived in or near the village of Westfield. The young lad early learned the lessons of self denial and self help. In the spring of 1859, when but fourteen years old, his uncle engaged him to work for Robert Kearney, a most estimable man who owned a farm a little west of Westfield, for six dollars a month and board; the next year, for the same party, for seven; and the next, for eight dollars a month. Mr. Kearney had a small but well selected library, of which the "hired boy" made good use during his leisure hours and in the long winter evenings after his next day's school lessons had been prepared.

In the spring of 1860, after a winter in the village school, taught by Mr. Joseph B. Breckenridge, who at this writing is still a resident of Westfield and very proud of the career of his former pupil, he attended the Mount Hesper Academy located in the Friends Settlement near South Woodbury, then and for many years conducted by the late Jesse and Cynthia Harkness. Many of the sons and daughters of Morrow county were educated at this one time well-known and popular school.

On the evening of Saturday, October 26, 1861, a largely attended war meeting was held in the lecture room of the Methodist Episcopal church, addressed by James Olds, of Mount Gilead. At the close of the address a call was made for volunteers and young Gardner was the first of a considerable number of Westfield boys to go forward to the desk on the platform and write down his name. The boy recruit, who had hitherto scarcely been outside of his native county, now entered upon a new and strange life. It was a rough and dangerous, but valuable school. Its lessons given in the camp, on the march, around the bivouac, on the picket post, during the siege, upon the battlefield and in the hospital were, if rightly applied, such as to better fit one for the subsequent duties and responsibilities of life. Mr. Gardner became a member of Company D, Sixty-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry Volunteers. It is enough to say that this (according to the official records) youngest member of the company shared every campaign, march, siege and battle participated in by his regiment until hit in battle on the afternoon of Saturday, May 14, 1864, at Resaca, Georgia, in Sherman's campaign for Atlanta. His clothes were pierced by the bullet of a Confederate sharp-shooter in the battle of Stone River and his bayonet scabbard cut into, and the little finger of the left hand grazed on the second day at Chickamauga, but blood was not drawn until the well aimed bullet was fired at Resaca which permanently disabled and made him henceforth a sufferer for life. The wounded soldier was fortunate in the care he received in the temporary hospital near the battlefield and again in Chattanooga, where he was confined for months on a cot in the First Presbyterian church, which was used as a hospital in that city. He was here when Hood's army invaded the Tennessee capital in December, 1864, and on the 14th of that month, the day before the battle of Nashville opened, he was honorably discharged by reason of expiration of term of service.

Returning to the home of his uncle, Washington Gardner, at Westfield on a Friday evening in December, 1864, a veteran of more than three years of service in war though still a youth under twenty years of age, at once put into execution a resolution formed while in the army, viz.—that if he lived to get home he would go to school. On the Monday morning following his arrival home from the war on the preceding Friday night he enrolled as a pupil in the Beach Grove academy at Ashley, Ohio. After one term here he entered the preparatory department of Baldwin

Hosted by Google

University, Berea, Ohio, where he remained four terms and in the fall of 1866 matriculated as a freshman in Hillsdale College, Michigan. He remained in this institution for three years having in the meantime among others as fellow students, Will Carleton, the poet; Albert J. Hopkins, for many years a member of Congress, and later a senator of the United States from Illinois; John F. Downey, dean of the University of Minnesota and one of the foremost educators of the middle west; and Joseph H. Moore, now and for many years one of the justices of the Michigan Supreme Court. During his senior vacation in the summer of 1869 he visited among his old friends in Morrow county, some of whom prevailed upon him to take his last collegiate year at Delaware. After a successful examination he entered the Ohio Wesleyan University, from which institution he graduated from the classical course on the 30th day of June, 1870, receiving the degree of A. B. and later that of A. M. in cursu.

During all his school days Mr. Gardner purposed to study law, with a political career in view, but while at Delaware influences were brought to bear that changed the course he had previously marked out for himself. The fall of 1871 found him a student in the Boston University, School of Theology. In the second year of his course his health gave way, after a continuous strain in school and hard work in vacations to earn money with which to meet his expenses in college. In the fall of 1875 he entered the Albany Law School, from which he subsequently graduated as valedictorian of his class. In the meantime he had married Miss Anna Lee Powers, of Abington, Massachusetts. Mrs. Gardner, on the paternal side, is connected with the well-known Powers family of New Hampshire, her father being a native of that state, distinguished in sculpture, law and politics. Her mother was a Miss Reed, related to the people of that name both in Massachusetts and Maine. Her ancestors on the maternal side have lived in Plymouth county since the landing of the Pilgrims from the Mayflower. To Mr. and Mrs. Gardner have been born seven children—Grace Bartlett, Mary Theodosia, Carleton Frederick, Elton Goldthwaite, Raymond Huntington, Lucy Reed and Helen Louis. All are living except the first named, who died in early infancy. All are married and settled in life, except Miss Helen, who is at this writing a girl of eighteen.

In the fall of 1876 Mr. Gardner removed with his family to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and entered upon the practice of law in partnership with Mr. Samuel A. Kennedy, a former college chum. After one year in the law he entered the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church and preached for twelve years, at the end of which time he was tendered and accepted a professorship in Albion College, Michigan. In March, 1894, while serving in this capacity he was, without solicitation, requested by Governor John T. Rich to accept the position of secretary of state to fill out an unexpired term. Laying the matter before the trustees of the college they advised him to accept. He was subsequently twice nominated by acclamation and elected to the same office. While serving as secretary of state he was nominated and elected to congress by the Republicans of the Third Michigan district and was five times elected to succeed himself, serving in the 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th and 61st Congresses. Ten of his twelve years in congress he was a member of the committee on appropriations. During his service on this committee estimates aggregating $3,405,927,100.10 were considered and bills amounting to $3,185,567,336.69 were framed and carried through congress, resulting in a saving to the government, below the estimates, of $220,359,763.41. Mr. Gardner also served as chairman of the committee on expenditures in the Department of Commerce and Labor. Through the committee on appropriations he was closely associated with the build-

Hosted by Google

ing of the Panama canal. It was before this committee that the chief and his assistant engineers annually appeared to explain the progress of the enterprise. Three times at the request of the President of the United States Mr. Gardner, with his associate committee members, visited the Canal Zone and inspected the work with great care in order that the committee might have the fullest and most accurate information upon which Porto Rico, Jamaica and other of the tropical countries.
to base their recommendations to the Congress. He also visited Cuba,

In Congress Mr. Gardner had the reputation of preparing with great care and thoroughness of detail the appropriation bills of which he had charge and of advocating and defining the measures presented by him with such clearness and force that not infrequently bills carrying many millions of dollars passed the critical scrutiny of the house with very little of change. For ten years he was a member and for four years chairman of the sub-committee having in charge the District of Columbia appropriation bills. Such was the manner in which he discharged the duties assigned him and so greatly were his services appreciated by the citizens at Washington, that on the eve of his retirement from congress a public dinner was tendered him at which there were present the President of the United States, the speaker of the house of representatives, many members of congress, and about three hundred of the foremost citizens of the Federal City. President Taft, in speaking for the capital of the nation, said in part: "I came here to join with you in testifying to the gratitude that we all ought to feel toward a member of congress who has given so effective attention and so much of his time in Congress for the benefit of the District of Columbia." The Hon. John W. Yerkes in behalf of the citizens of Washington, in a personal tribute to Mr. Gardner said: "This homage, these thanks of the people of Washington—a crown unlike the laurel and the bay will never wither—must, notwithstanding your modesty and simplicity, your abhorrence of show and parade, accompany you back to your home in the Lake state, a trophy of war yet of victory; the capture by you of the high esteem and affection of a great city." Major William V. Judson, engineer commissioner of the District of Columbia, in behalf of the district, said: "Mr. Gardner has never inserted in an appropriation bill a single item to gratify a friend or to win the applause of the thoughtless. No man in Washington owes him a thank you for a special favor. I bear witness to the sterling qualities of this man. His honesty, infinite patience and intelligent application are too unworthily recognized by any mere public dinner. In giving this slight token of respect we feel that we honor ourselves more than we do him." Admiral C. H. Stockton, the acting president of George Washington University, said, that "the hand of Representative Gardner is to be seen in every good thing in the district. There is no one more just or better qualified to present our great projects to congress." Mr. Speaker Cannon said: "Have come to give my personal, committee and political friend a sad farewell, because his going from us is a real loss to the American congress." No greater welcome has ever been accorded a guest of honor than when Mr. Gardner was introduced by the toast master, Mr. John Jay Edison, to acknowledge the tributes paid him. The entire company arose and cheered him mightily. Handkerchiefs were waved and flowers were tossed toward him.

We insert the above extracts from the *Washington Star* of February 26, 1911, as showing at the end of a long career in congress the esteem in which a Morrow county boy is held in the capital city of the nation. Surely it is a faraway distance from the place of an obscure, motherless and self-dependent lad of fourteen years working on a farm at six dollars a month to the central figure in a great banquet hall, in the capital of the nation, receiving as a tribute for public service, well and faithfully

Hosted by Google

performed, homage and plaudits from some of the nation's most distinguished citizens. It is but another illustration of the possibilities of the American boy. The citizens of Morrow county are justly proud of its having been the birth-place of Washington Gardner. They are proud of his useful and honorable career. His home is at Albion, Michigan.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

ogle